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Hooked On Self-Identity: What does it mean to find yourself?

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Senior Capstone

Self Identity

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Hooked On Self-Identity



What does it mean to find yourself?

Overview

Peter was an orphan boy who was adopted by Wendy Darling. After his adoption, they started going on adventures to Neverland. Neverland is a magical far away land where you never grow up. Peter has a special gift in Neverland, he can fly. He becomes the leader of “The Lost Boys”, other orphan boys in this land, and they have many battles with Captain Hook and his men. Peter goes back and forth to the real world and Neverland and is always looking for great adventures. He meets a girl in the real world, Moira Darling, Wendy’s granddaughter. They fall in love and Peter stays in the real world and starts a family with her. Years go by, and Peter becomes a powerful lawyer and forgets all about Neverland and his great adventures. Peter and Moira have two kids together, Maggie and Jack. All they want to do is play with their dad and have him come to their games and events, but he is too wrapped up in his work. They take a trip to see Wendy and this is where the story really begins. While Peter, Moira and Wendy are out at a dinner honoring Wendy, Captain Hook comes and takes Maggie and Jack to Neverland leaving only a note telling Peter to come to Neverland. Hook wants Peter there so they can have a fight to the death. Peter has lost all of his memories of Neverland and does not fully understand what is happening. Wendy tries to jog his memory by reading him stories of who he really is, but this is to no avail. Later that night, Tinker Bell comes and takes Peter to Neverland to rescue his kids.

Hook gives Peter three days to remember how to fly and get ready for the great battle. During those three days, Hook tries to make Peter's kids love him to break Peter's spirit and will to fight. Maggie does not fall for this, but Jack begins to view Hook as the father figure he never had. On the third day, Peter remembers who he really is and finds his "happy thought" which gives him the ability to fly again. Then with the help of the lost boys, he rescues his kids, kills Hook, and makes it back to the real world. Upon returning to the real world, Peter is a completely changed man whose highest value and priority is his family.

Peter Banning

Peter's whole identity is work and success. He misses his son's big baseball game because of work and during his daughter's school play he is on the phone doing work. The need to be successful outweighs his desire to be there for his family. He has lost his youthful spirit and his adventurous personality. There is a quote by Tinker Bell that is said after she finds out Peter doesn't remember who he really is. "Well, whoever you are it's still you, cause only one person has that smell. The smell of someone who has ridden the back of the wind, Peter. The smell of a hundred fun summers, with sleeping in trees and adventures with Indians and Pirates. Oh remember Peter? The world was ours. We could do everything or nothing. All it had to be was anything cause it was always us." This is Peter's true identity that has been lost because of his desire to be a successful lawyer.

Captain James Hook

Captain Hook is the pirate who kidnaps Peter's kids and takes them to Neverland in hopes of having a final duel with Peter. Hook fancies himself as a gentlemen and frequently uses the phrases "good form" and "bad form." He has extravagant meals nightly, wears the finest

clothes and has the best swords. He has a hook for hand, hence the name, because Peter cut it off and fed it to a crocodile. Hook has been depressed ever since Peter left Neverland, he has even attempted suicide. His only goal in life is to fight and kill Peter Pan. His identity is so wrapped up in defeating Pan that he has forgotten how to enjoy life and all the luxuries that come with being the fiercest pirate in all the land. The loss of his hand has also contributed to his issues. When his hand was cut off, a part of his identity was lost. Everyday he has to live with the destruction, both physically and mentally, of the loss of his hand. His pride and lack of identity issues eventually lead to his demise. Peter rescues his kids and attempts to leave Neverland but Hook threatens that he will never stop hurting Peter's family. He says that he will, "kidnap Peter's children's children's children." Peter can't let this happen, so he agrees to duel Hook to the death. This was the end of Captain James Hook. Peter defeats him and takes his kids back to "real world."

Jack Banning

Jack is Peter's son. He is constantly put on the back burner by his dad. Peter's job always comes before spending time with his son who desperately just wants his dad's love and affection. After Jack is kidnapped, Hook tries to convince him that he belongs in Neverland and that he can be a father figure to him. Given that this is all Jack has ever wanted, he falls for Hook's ploy and views him as role model and father figure. Jack loses sight of who he really is and becomes Hook's "son." At one point in the movie, Peter comes to rescue Jack to take him home and Jack responds with, "I am home." It is not until Hook kills Rufio that Jack sees that Hook is not the father figure he has been searching for. After this, he looks at Peter and says, "Dad, I want to go home." After he is rescued, he sees the changes in his dad and their relationship is renewed.

Wendy

Along the path to identity, Wendy is one of the main characters who assists him in the movie. Although her role was smaller, she is one of the most influential people to Peter. Without her, Peter would not have had the ability to go back and save his kids. She was one of the characters who never had trouble knowing who she was. She seemed to have a balance of understanding of both places. Although she was old, she never forgot about Neverland, yet it's understood she was able to live a long life. Wendy can be paralleled to people we meet in real life. To have someone, as grounded as Wendy, in life is not something to be taken lightly. She had a major role in Peter's ability to find his way back to Neverland.

Overall, we change throughout life, but that doesn't mean we have to forget the events in our past. Without the past, the present would not hold the same meaning. In Wendy's case she never forgets about her adventures with Peter. She does not have to forget her memories, either, because she knows where they belong in context to the rest of her life. In the film she tells Peter, "Peter, I can't come with you. I've forgotten how to fly. I'm old, Peter. Ever so much more than twenty. I grew up a long time ago." Unlike a large majority of people, Wendy can acknowledge she past the point of returning. She also accepts knowing that part of her life is over.

Tinker Bell

In the movie, Peter had his own struggle for identity, but Tinker Bell (Tink) had her own struggle as well. She has to help Peter find his way Maggie Banning is the daughter of Peter Banning. She is his youngest child. She loves the stories of Peter Pan and even performs in a play where she acts as Wendy. Ironically, she is the granddaughter of Wendy in real life. Maggie does not know her father is actually Peter Pan in real life. However, this does not save

her from being kidnapped by Captain Hook. Once she was taken to Neverland she realized all the stories were true about her dad. Although Captain Hook tries to persuade Peter's kids into loving him, and although it temporarily works on Jack, it does not work on Maggie. Maggie never falls for Hook's plan and instead sticks to her belief in the purity of her dad. Although Maggie was young, she seemed to have a good grasp on who she was. She, unlike Jack, she knows the truth, and has a good foundation for her belief. It is important to note that Maggie is a child, however, some adults even struggle with identity. Some people spend their whole lives trying to figure out who they are, and manage her romantic feelings for him at the same time. Throughout the movie, the story hints at her feelings towards Peter, and right before the climax, she confesses her love for him. In the end, she assists Peter in saving his kids, and reunites him with his family. Tink is in love with someone who does not reciprocate the feeling. At some point of most people's lives, they encounter a similar situation which permanently shapes their identity. Tinker Bell represents a part of life many people go through. It is hard to imagine this is a normal part of life, however, Tink can represent the sad reality. Some people never get past this stage of life because they stay fixed on that single person. Love is one of the most complicated aspects of life, and sadly, not everyone figures out if they are with the right person. Although Tink realizes Peter could never love her, she still loves him. The power of love is unknown. It is one of the most powerful forces in the world.

Just because the person we love does not love us does not mean that love is any less significant. Some people believe you only fall in love once and other people believe love can be felt multiple times. Neither view is necessarily wrong, but just offer other perspectives for how to view the topic. For Tinker Bell and many others, she will only love one person. She will never feel that way for anyone else, nor will she have a chance to love anyone else.

Maggie Banning

Maggie Banning is the daughter of Peter. She is probably the strongest willed character in the movie. What sets Maggie apart from everyone else is her unconditional faith in her father. At no point during her time with Captain Hook did she lose track of who she was as a person. In context to the film, this is especially important because almost every character goes through some kind of internal conflict. Maggie is different because she remains true to herself throughout the story. Since Maggie was as interested as she was in Neverland she was able to take on the different culture. Unlike Peter, she was excited to see how much different that place was.

Also, Maggie's innocence is an important aspect of her ability to be receptive towards the culture of Neverland. Many people forget how nice it can be to be innocent. People become jaded by the harsh realities of the world. Again, unlike her father, her innocence allows her to expand her mind past the traditional values, of life, that Peter has. Without Maggie, Peter might not have been able to persevere through the plot. With Jack under Captain Hook's wing, Maggie was the rock that Peter used as support.

Maggie's character represents a part in life that some people never encounter. At this stage in her life, Maggie had completed the search for identity. Knowing where you fit in, on the journey called life, is not easy. Some people chase identity in multiple ways. They try to change themselves to find a part of them that is missing. People, like Maggie, are born with the privilege of knowing who they are.

Theory:

In some of the scenes in the film, Peter has a hard time accepting some of the "realities" he is exposed to on his quest. He is blinded by his own perception of "reality" which prevents

him from achieving some of his memories in his past. According to Edward W. Said's book, *Orientalism*, a person can see parallels between the theory in his book and Peter's personal struggles when he returns to Neverland. A website called Arabstereotypes.org says, "‘orientalism’ is a way of seeing that imagines, emphasizes, exaggerates and distorts differences of Arab peoples and cultures as compared to that of Europe and the U.S. It often involves seeing Arab culture as exotic, backward, uncivilized, and at times dangerous." This theory of "orientalism" reflects the westernized views of the whole world. Sometimes it is hard for people of those ideals to accept or consider other world views. Although this theory is not directly related to *Hook*, there can be some connections.

In the Beginning of the movie, Wendy is reminding Peter of his youth as Peter Pan. Peter completely denies ever taking part in those adventures. He claims he cannot remember those times, but also he claims those adventures could not be possible. Peter is a businessman; because of his American perceptions of life, he is in shock when he hears about Neverland. Many people in the real world go through a small period of culture shock when he is exposed to a place they have not seen before. Peter, although he has been to Neverland, had the same culture shock when he first goes back to Neverland.

Next, in the scene where Peter meets the Lost Boys, he requests to speak with an adult. The Lost Boys tell him the only adults in the land are the pirates whom they do battle with. Peter is sure there is no way those boys could be self-sustaining without adults. This stemmed from a belief of a need of a certain lifestyle for the boys. This parallels the Orientalism Theory. Another part of the theory states, "orientalism provided a rationalization for European colonialism based on a self-serving history in which ‘the West’ constructed ‘the East’ as extremely different and inferior, and therefore in need of Western intervention or ‘rescue,’"

(arabstereotypes.org). Just like the colonization of the Native Americans, Peter believed it to be preposterous for the boys to live in such a way. If someone were to dig deeper they could argue that was a “primitive” or “absurd” way to live.

Finally, when Captain Hook kidnaps Peter’s kids, there is a battle that is supposed to take place on Hook’s ship. When Peter arrives to take his kids from Hook, Peter faces another wall of reality. Hook demands that Peter flies to the top of the mast to grab his kids. Since Peter is so wrapped up in his preconceived notions of reality and does not have the capacity to take on Hook’s statement. Naturally, in Peter’s world, flying is outright ludicrous. Orientalism talks about not having the capacity to distinguish between cultures, or in this case, worlds. When Peter admits he cannot fly, the pirates are completely baffled by his statement. In their world, flying is normal. The Peter they knew would fly up to the mast in a heartbeat. Using the orientalism theory, one could say Peter did not have the capacity to understand the expectation of flight because of his understanding of reality.

Overall, a person could draw parallels between Edward Said’s theory of Orientalism, and the movie *Hook*. Throughout the film, Peter Banning is in a constant internal battle with taking on the culture of Neverland. Jack, being from America, is forced to relearn how to be Peter Pan and it is not easy. Orientalism deals with westernized beliefs being forced upon the middle east. Just like the Europeans, Jack could not fathom how Neverland could exist because of his preconceived notions on how the civilization has to be defined. When dealing with a quest for identity, it is important to consider how other parts of the world operate. When people learn about other cultures, and the people involved in them, those experiences can alter how a person classifies their own identity. After Jack’s adventure, he has several realizations that alter the way he sees himself, and how he interacts with his family.

It is hard not to think of W. E. B. Du Bois' theory of double consciousness when studying Steven Spielberg's *Hook*. In his book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Du Bois describes double consciousness as, "It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his two-ness,—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder. The history of the American Negro is the history of this strife – this longing to attain self-conscious manhood, to merge his double self into a better and truer self. In this merging he wishes neither of the older selves to be lost. He does not wish to Africanize America, for America has too much to teach the world and Africa. He wouldn't bleach his Negro blood in a flood of white Americanism, for he knows that Negro blood has a message for the world. He simply wishes to make it possible for a man to be both a Negro and an American without being cursed and spit upon by his fellows, without having the doors of opportunity closed roughly in his face." When hearing his definition, you cannot help but see the direct correlation it has with Peter. In the beginning of the movie, Peter is only living through his identity of being a regular working class man. He has the job, wife, and kids and lives to work and works to live. Even though Peter tries to convince himself that he is happy this way, there is a part of him that will never be content. His adopted mother, Wendy, tries multiple times to remind him of what his other identity is, but Peter wants nothing to do with these "fake" stories.

Once Peter is back in Neverland, he is looked at by the lost boys and tinkerbelle as their hero who will help them defeat Hook. He doesn't see this and he even becomes upset at the thought that he could somehow be this "savior." It is not until he finds his "happy thought" that

he starts to believe who he is. He sees his reflection in the pond, and it is of him when he is thirteen years old. He is able to fly again and be the Pan that everyone expects him to be. He “looks at one’s self through the eyes of others” and sees his other identity.

Captain James Hook also struggles with double consciousness. He looks at himself through the eyes of the crew and their expectations for him. They expect him to get revenge on Peter for cutting off his hand and feeding it to the crocodile. They expect their fierce leader to take them into the battle of the century. This weighs on Hook so much that when Peter first comes back to Neverland and he realizes that Peter has forgotten how to fly, he attempts to shoot himself in the head but is stopped by Smee. When he thought this battle was not going to happen, he felt that life was no longer worth living. At this point in the story, I honestly felt pity for the captain. Hook thinking that his whole life purpose was to defeat Pan is what eventually lead to his downfall.

Personal Identity

_____ Identity is special because it is something that is uniquely yours. No one else can have the same identity as you. Two people can share the same thoughts and values on subjects, but deep down your identity is still your own. It is something that is ever changing, I am not the same person I was a year ago. My views, thoughts, and knowledge are different than they were twelve months ago.

I grew up in a very conservative household. I had two loving parents, two sisters, and grandparents and aunts and uncles living close by. We were a church going, middle class, white family living the American dream. This is what it looked like from the outside, but on the inside, things were much different. My dad was cop and one night got injured on the job. He blew out his knee and needed surgery. The procedure went fine and he was scheduled to be back at work

in eight weeks. The next eight weeks altered my family's life forever. My dad was prescribed Vicodin to help with the pain of the surgery. He started out with the normal dosage but he began to take more and more. At one point, he was taking thirty Vicodin a day. My dad was addicted to painkillers. After his knee healed, he returned to work. He returned under the influence of painkillers everyday. Pretty soon, his work found out he was abusing drugs and he was fired. Our life was upside down.

The next ten years were very rough on our family, mom especially. Her husband was a drug addict who was going in and out of rehabs. No one knew, everyone looked at us as the perfect family, little did they know all the pain and suffering that went on behind closed doors. This all helped shape me into who I am today. Recently I wrote a short poem about my experience growing up.

Choking Hazard

I know you loved those pills more than us
You were always breakin Mom's trust

But I will always wonder about that high
Was it more important than keeping your family together? Why?

All the yelling and arguing with you and mom
Even though you knew you were wrong

Oxycontin, Vicodin, anything you could find
To you, it really didn't matter the kind

As long as you got your fuckin' fix
Any concoction of pills, you were willing to mix

You came to my game and passed out on the cold hard plastic

You missed seeing me hit the game winning basket
You fucked up like Ryan Fitzpatrick
All this pain I try to mask it
Keep it up, you gonna end up in a casket

You didn't mean to hurt us, I'm willing to bet
All that pain an anger you caused I try to forget

But no matter how hard I try, I can't black it out
All that time you missed, you'll regret it no doubt

Our family, you nearly ripped apart
Gotta thank God, Mom has a forgiving heart

But I forgive you dad, ten times over
And I am proud of you, 12 years sober

I wrote this for my creative writing class this semester. Putting it down on paper and sharing it with people was something that was difficult for me. I have been embarrassed by this for so long, but now I think it is best that I embrace it. Going through this has laid the foundation for my identity, good and bad. On the negative side, it has given me trust issues. My dad was always saying he wasn't using, but that at home drug test always told a different story. It has made me skeptical and question if someone is telling the truth. It has made me bury emotions of neglect and abandonment by my father. At ten years old, I found one of my dad's hidden stashes of painkillers. What do I do? Do I tell my mom and cause her to cry and be upset at my dad? Do I get rid of it because it is the best thing for dad? Or do I just turn a blind eye to it, after all, ignorance is bliss right? I told my dad I found his pills. I remember the look on his face, a mixture of embarrassment and disbelief. His response was, "No Brent, these aren't painkillers, these are just Aspirin, these are okay for me to take." I nodded an okay, but I knew the truth.

It wasn't all for the worse though. Going through these rough experiences as a young child has made me a better person. It has taught me to be strong. It has taught me to not wear my

emotions on my sleeve. It has taught me to put a smile on when there is nothing to smile about. These are important life skills to have. When I am having a bad day at work, I can't let it show, I can't let it affect my work, I have to let it go and focus on the positive. When I am a dad and I am having a terrible day, I can't let that show to my kids. I need to be a strong leader for them and put on a smile and let them know that everything will be ok. The world is full of weak people who crack under pressure and don't want to deal with the problems that life throws their way. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. This is a saying that I try to live by, and I feel that my experiences as a young child have made it possible.

I didn't have the normal father son relationship with my dad growing up, but we are making up for it now. He has been twelve years sober and is now a pastor and counsels people about their drug, alcohol, and other life problems. I always wanted a father son trip with my dad like the rest of my friends did growing up, but never got one. We are making up for that now though. We are flying to Minnesota soon to watch the Vikings play and we are going a few days early to check out all of the good food and breweries that Minnesota has to offer. This is very special to me because at twenty-five, it is the first time my dad and I are doing something fun together, just the two of us. Can lost time and memories be made up? No. But new ones can certainly be made and I feel that we are taking steps in the right direction. -Brent Clay

_____ In my life, I have always struggled with who I am and where I fit in. In elementary school, at the end of every school year the different grade levels had to do annual dance festivals. Back then, the "cool" thing to do was to spike your hair with hair gel. At the end of the year, all of the males in my class spiked their hair and wore sunglasses. They all looked like mini Tom Cruise action figures. Everyone, except myself, had spiked hair. For a few moment I could not

understand why I could not wear my hair like the other kids. It was not until moments later I truly felt different from the other kids in my class. Naturally, this would not be the last experience either.

What does every child want? Children want friends, toys, they want to fit in, they want to be apart of the group, and they want to be loved. As a child, I had most of those things, but day after day I was still black, and 90% of my counterparts were white. I never knew any of this mattered, but I knew I did not like when people talked about the difference. I can honestly say I have never wanted to be white. That never crossed my mind. I was too happy being black, but I did not know why my life was different than everyone else's. People I was around just did not live the same life as me. Instead of wanting to be white, I wanted the people around me to share my life, and understand my reality. This is a complex understanding of identity for an eight year old boy. I did not realize this is what I was feeling until I was older, but when I was younger, just like any other child, blending in was the only thing I cared about. I almost forgot about race until I went to highschool. That's where I caught the reality of being black, again.

I do not even remember my first day of high school. If I said I remembered my second day, that would be a lie, too. The first week of school rings no bells in my head, either. All that comes to mind when I think of high school is confusion. Once again, the question of identity is up for internalized discussion and externalized actions fueled by more confusion. I thought acting like my white counterparts would grant me the same life I had at my previous school, but wrong was an understatement. I was punished, and stripped of the identity granted to me by birth. I was labeled white, but how? Everything about me is black. My physical experience, my culture, my family, my diet, my family experience, and even my religion to some degree. What is missing? That's right; the world around me does not know anything past my name and how I

talk. Being exposed to a certain type of culture since the earliest years of life would make anyone act just like it. Why do they make fun of me for it? I did not choose this lifestyle. I did not want this. In an all male high school world, I will pay the price. Once again, who am I?

Although high school could have been a lot worse, my identity crisis is always going to be the epitome of my four year career. I had to reevaluate what made me tick and what made me who I was. On a daily basis, I was teased because I lacked the ability to act the way people who were not apart of my race believed a Black person should act. Who am I? I bet they did not know I had talks with my parents about how to deal with police. I bet they did not know Jill Scott, BoyzIIMen, or Cameo were all apart of my daily life. I bet they did not know how shows like, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air and Family Matters were not “cool” or “different” shows to watch, but normal and casual to myself and my family. They did not know who I was. Slowly as the time went on, I began to learn who I was after those long four years. It began to come to me. I still did not know who I was, but I knew this was the starting point to learning.

Although the days were rough, I remember one part that made it ok. There was this hispanic student who stood out. I keep his identity confidential, but he was a student that got transferred to our school because he was “on the wrong path.” Every day of my senior year, we had a free period where we would have to go to the library. In the library, that student and I would talk. He did not like me for the longest time, and I did not know why. Finally he said he did not like black people. He never did and I was no exception. Naturally his history with gangs led me to believe he probably had some bad encounters before. However, this did not deter me. He did not know me, though. He did not know anything about me other than the color of my skin, another reminder that I was different. Since we were in the library and since he did not

have a choice, I forced my way into his life. Despite all the threats he made at me, I talked to him every day. Reluctant at first, he began to talk to me. Before long, we were friends.

One day, myself, my new friend, and four other students were sitting at a round table, together. A younger student that was sitting with us was insulting and aggravating my friend. Despite knowing his past, what came next will stay with me until I die. At that point, the two of them were conversing in Spanish. Judging by the tone of the discussion, it was heated. My friend then stood up, grabbed a knife out of his pocket, stood next to the student, and covertly put it against his kidney. He muttered something in Spanish, and everything went silent. We were all stone cold barely able to comprehend what we just witnessed. After that day I had a new respect for my friend. I did not fear him. Instead, I stood beside him. Despite that encounter, he told me I had changed him. He told me he did not know a black person could be like me. I told him life can be a trip. Although he told me I helped him, what he does not understand is that he did more for me than I ever could do for him.

After I graduated, I immediately started at my Junior College. At least in college, I did not have to associate with anyone. I was constantly asking myself who I was. My friend group shrank, but the value of friendship grew. I knew who my friends were and some people did not make the cut. At least having a small number of friends was a reflection of who a person is. It is not abnormal for people to gravitate towards people with qualities they aspire to have or think they have within themselves. My friends were not perfect, but they could be trusted with my well being. What did I know? The more my friends solidified our friendship, the easier my identity came to me. Along the way, more people like me came into my life. More people like me left my life, too.

Let's jump forward. Who am I? As I prepare to graduate college, I think the answer to that question is becoming clearer. At the end of the day, I have to thank my family and friends for allowing me to grow into the person I have become. Hopefully my future allows more growth that can be passed onto future generations. The journey for personal identity is not an easy journey. Sadly, people spend their whole lives looking for it, but never seem to find it. The moment I got an idea of who I was I ran with it until a new cognition of life came into grasp. The person who writes this essay, now, is not even the same person who started typing. Change is inevitable and the journey will continue until the day my last breath leaves my body. -

Wesley Barnes

Synthesis Essay-Brent

_____ This capstone project has been very enjoyable to work on. When I saw that self identity was our topic, my eyes lit up because I knew exactly what I wanted to do. *Hook* is and always will be my favorite movie of all time. I have always loved the story and enjoy it even more now that I have viewed through my "theoretical glasses." Double consciousness was a very fitting definition of the story of *Hook*. Du Bois' theory is shadowed throughout the movie and it was fun tying the two together.

I couldn't of asked for a better partner in Wesley. Our personalities really mesh well together and it was a joy working with him. It was funny, when you mentioned that we could work in partners, Wes and I looked at each other and kind of joked that we should be partners. We had just met this semester and really didn't know each other that well. Wes is a very punctual partner, and this helped me keep on pace with the writing goals we had set forth. He was always willing to meet at any time of day or night to work on our project. Having a partner made it a less stressful process because we were able to bounce ideas off of each other. I never

felt alone during this big project and that was very comforting. I couldn't imagine working with anyone else, Wes was always supportive and positive and made things run smoothly. When you have someone who is depending on you to get your work done, it is extra motivation. This is definitely motivation that I needed to get my part done. Working with a partner made me want to produce better work because I did not want to let him down.

Synthesis Essay-Wesley

After doing our capstone on this movie, I realized how theoretical analysis can also broaden the way other people can see other movies. It is unclear whether or not the director planned for there to be this level of thought in the film, but there is a lot that can be analyzed. "Identity" is only one of the theoretical frames we could use for analysis. There is a lot of room for interpretation when someone watches a movie. This film has a lot of pieces of a person that can make up a single identity. Through our analysis, we bring that to attention. Although *Hook* is a movie for children, I think it is applicable towards any individual. People spend too much time growing up and forget what the real meaning of life is. The meaning of life is a complicated discussion to have with anyone, but I feel like there are a lot of key elements that we, as adults, forget. Elements like family, friendship, and fun are things that can be lost when careers and money come forward. Our family should not have to be kidnapped by a pirate for us to realize they are the most important parts of our life.

Since our process involved our own lives, I think it was a good idea we decided to add our own little personal struggles for identity in them. When two people come together, it is always amazing what they can come up with. Our lives are not even close to being similar. He and I had completely different struggles for identity. I do not think I would be the same person if I had to go through his struggles. Identity can be funny sometimes. Funny in the context that

you would never expect people to be strong enough to carry what they do. I had no idea this good looking, strong, confident, and witty person had such a tough life. One of the powers of HCOM is how personal it can be. I never would have guessed he struggled like that. I believe one of the aspects of identity involves trying to take on the roles of our counterparts. The journey for identity is truly amazing.

At first, I was not sure how to go about this project. I had no idea what I wanted to do my project on. Brent approached me and offered to be my partner for the semester. I did not think he was serious at first, but he proved to be worthy of the task. I do not think I would do it any other way. He and I worked effortlessly together and his idea for using “Hook” was brilliant. Our ideas went together very well. I did not think I would enjoy learning about that movie, Brent, or even myself. I had to dig pretty deep to keep up with Brent. Throughout the whole process, I think we pushed ourselves, cognitively, to come up with our essay. We both learned about each other on a personal level. Any time I think my life is hard, I know I can look at someone else and understand they are also going through something, too. Although we only wrote an essay, I think having a partner gave me a better opportunity than working by myself. What some people do not realize is sharing any experience with another person is more valuable than doing something by yourself. Debian Martey once asked us why HCOM matters. I believe HCOM is the last hope for humans compassion. Brent is an amazing person and throughout this experience, I have nothing but respect and compassion for him. He helped me more than I could ever help him.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary:

Hook. Dir. Steven Spielberg. Perf. Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, and Julia Roberts. TriStar Pictures, 1991.

The film is our main source. This was the foundation to our project. The film does an excellent job developing the characters and portraying each character's struggle with identity. The purpose of our project was to analyze the struggle of the characters in the film and compare them to our own personal struggle. Since the film had such a diverse character spread, it fit perfectly. Hook and Peter, the antagonist and the protagonist, both had completely different identity struggles although they were intertwined. That applied very well to the theme of our capstone.

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage, 1979. Print.

Orientalism has to do with the westernized perception of the middle east. Although that does not apply to the film directly, it still has messages that can be applied. For our project, we needed to tackle the culture aspect of identity. In the film, Peter has a hard time taking on the culture of Neverland. In the real world, we, as Americans, struggle to think past our busy lives. It is important to consider how the rest of the world operates. This source was key because it gave us a broader understanding of orientalism which allowed us to apply it to the film and our project.

Washington, Booker T., Du Bois W. E. B., and James Weldon Johnson. *Three Negro Classics: Up from Slavery*. New York: Avon, 1965. Print

The Double Consciousness theory was the second theory we used to assist our analysis of the film. Double consciousness has to do with having multiple identities internally. For Peter it was obvious, but for some of the other characters it was not as easy to point out. This source was directly applicable to our project and applicable to the broader picture of searching for identity.

Secondary:

"What Is Orientalism?" What Is Orientalism? | Reclaiming Identity: Dismantling Arab Stereotypes. *Reclaiming Our Identity: Dismantling Arab Stereotypes*, 2011. Web. 15 Oct. 2016.

After using the direct Orientalism source, this one had another set of examples to use for the definition. I found this source useful when I did not have my papers to assist me. This source offered different perspectives on the theory and used different applications for how the theory was viewed.