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Napoleon Ricardo Miranda's Mexican American Diaspora

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Napoleon Ricardo Miranda's Mexican-American Diaspora



Pictured above is Napoleon Ricardo Miranda taken in King City California by Melissa Martinez

Napoleon Ricardo Miranda

Senior Capstone

Practical and Professional Ethics

Creative Project

Umi Vaughan

School of Humanities and Communication

Spring 2019

Dedication

I created this project in memory of my Abuelito Manuel, Abuelita Angelita, Abuelita Cuca, and Abuelito Pos.

Table of Contents

Senior Project Proposal	1
Senior Project Documentation	4
Reflective Essay	22
Final Synthesis Essay	25
Resume	28

Project Proposal

1. **Provide your name and identify your area of concentration:**

Napoleon Ricardo Miranda-Practical & Professional Ethics

2. **Project Description:** Provide a 50-75 word description of your project idea and what form the project will take. If you are a Creative Writing and Social Action Concentration student, specifically describe what genre you will produce (poetry, creative non-fiction etc.) and what social action issue you are engaging.

I will be preparing a creative non-fiction short story for my capstone project. I will be focusing in on my Mexican-American Roots and my family's emigration from Mexico with an added twist about my experience of being forced to leave what I consider my homeland to go to the beautiful Caribbean island of Puerto Rico.

3. **Alignment with Common Theme:** Provide a *concise overview* of your project's *direct alignment* with this semester's shared theme of inquiry.

As we discussed diaspora it directly aligns with my proposal because I was forced to leave my homeland in the central coast valley of California and relocate to Puerto Rico a Caribbean island surrounded by the Atlantic ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

4. **Purpose:** What is your project's primary purpose? For example, do you aspire to inform or enlighten? To persuade? To contribute to responsible decision making? Some of each?

My primary purpose of this project is to inform people about my diaspora experience and how far I've come with the help of my Mexican-American culture and its roots. To let the world and my fellow classmates and teachers that you can experience diaspora in several ways. Through acculturation I was able to adapt to the language and norms of Puerto Rican culture even though i am a Mexican-American United States Citizen.

5. **Format Rationale:** Provide a brief rationale for your selected format. How will using your chosen format help you fulfill your project's purpose(s)?

I will be using my creative writing skills to reflect upon my Mexican-American culture and my experience as an undergraduate student at CSUMB and I will also incorporate what I think is my own personal diaspora experience which was when I was forced to move to Puerto Rico. As a creative nonfiction short story I hope to tell the world of my diasporic experience and how it changed my thoughts about my ancestors and their history.

6. **Capstone Title:** What is your project's working title?

The Mexican-American Diaspora-A young man's trip to Puerto Rico

7. **Working Summary:** Provide a one-paragraph working summary of your project.

Living a life without knowing where your true homeland is can be disturbing. That is why I will be producing a short about my family's diaspora journey and a bit of my own. In my early life I spent most of my time fearing death and thinking about where I came from and my ancestors and who they were. This led me to think of the point I'm at in life, with that I couldn't help but think about how a creative non-fiction short story about my diaspora experience has compelled me to share how my understanding of diaspora works. In my years as an undergraduate I have learned that experiences shape who we are today and how we go about life. Leaving one culture and adapting to another could be difficult especially with language. Through this short story I want to enlighten people about opening up and search for their diaspora so one can become more cultured and ethnic.

8. **Expectations:** Articulate as clearly as possible the *specific expectations* associated with your chosen project, including a *detailed account of all deliverables*. Be sure to *align the project expectations with the appropriate assessment criteria* and include your understanding of *all documentation requirements* associated with the project.

I expect for readers to be able to relate better to their cultures. I hope that the tale of my own diaspora experience helps others to want to retrace where their homeland is. I want readers to feel shook when they read my story about a young man and his account of diaspora. I want everybody to know that they have a homeland they just need to search for it.

9. **Specific Skills Required:** Demonstrate specifically **competency in the technical skills needed to complete the project in the proposed format** described and how you already have developed them. Be specific! For example, if you have chosen a digital story as the format for your creative project, how did you develop the skills needed to complete a digital story? Did you successfully complete Latina Life Stories? How did you develop competency in using editing software?

I believe it was in Kent Leatham's HCOM 330 class where I finally fell in love with the art of writing. In that class I realized that I had talent to bring to life my real life experiences that have led up to my acculturation to other cultures and ethnicities. In creative writing I found that I could express how I felt about life and express my true feeling that I feared death because I didn't know where I really came from. At this point I realized that I had the writing ability that others don't because of my perspective on life.

10. **Next Steps:** What steps will you need to take to meet your project's expectations, including preparation of all required deliverables? (be as specific as possible)

After week five of this course I will set up a meeting with my creative writing professor Kent Leatham and discuss my ideas about my short story I will be composing. I hope that this project turns into something bigger and in future begin writing my own short stories for publication. I will look back at older poems and short stories I have written to decide what tone I will be using for my readers. I will meet with my parents to discuss our diaspora experiences and ask them about my ancestors. I will also ask them where our family's original homeland is.

11. **Timeline:** Provide a detailed (and realistic) timeline for completion of each step required to meet the project's expectations.

2/25/19

Meet with creative writing professor Kent Leatham

2/27/19

Meet with Capstone professor Umi Vaughan

3/1/19

Begin writing short story draft

3/13/19

Discuss poster requirements and get information

3/20/19

Be at least half way finished with my short story have atleast 10-15 Pages finished

4/1/19

Begin concluding short story 15-25 pages set meeting with Kent Leatham for editing and guidance and final thoughts

4/14/19

Begin editing final draft for short story

4/22/19

Have final draft finished and turned in

4/29/19

Capstone portfolio due

5/6/19

Capstone poster due

CHAPTER 1 - The Beginning

Leaving your homeland is no easy task. For my parents' leaving Mexico for a better work experience and better future for their children was something they had to do. They knew that in order for their family to succeed they had to leave the homeland and family behind to give their future sons and daughters a better life. Finding out how to cross the border was sure to be a tough task. For Esther and Napoleon this meant leaving everything and risking it all for the freedom of their own children. For decades they worked in the labor unions picking, planting, and maintaining every vineyard from the Santa Lucia Mountain Range up to the tip of the Silicon Valley. Esther, Napoleon and their first born son Manuel Osvaldo Miranda had the opportunity to come over to the United States and begin life as Mexican-American Immigrants. After speaking with my brother here's what he had to say "You were born and raised in the valley so your diaspora is none. Our grandparents and parents diaspora was emigration from Mexicali to the valley for better work experience. Your diaspora experience was your internship with PRO (Puerto Rico Open-Professional Golf Tour Tournament) when you came to PR (Puerto Rico) for 6 months. There could be a twist to it. I'd love to read what you have so far". This triggered me to write about my mother and father's journey to the central coast. Turning to people like my brother for guidance has been something I've done all my life. It's something that was taught from my grandparents or as we say it "Abuelito" "Abuelita" or "tata" or "nana". To my parents' these were the people who brought them happiness.

In the early 1970's this epic diaspora journey commenced. It was a grand time to be alive, as the economy grew so did the demand for field labor workers. Even though Napoleon

and Esther left their homeland. They kept practicing the norms that they practiced in Mexico. For holidays we gather and drink Tecate beer and eat tamales all night and day for two weeks. During funerals we blast Mexican music as loud as we can, and cry, and sing, but best of all we share family moments like my ancestors would have in prior decades. Family is what makes the Mexican culture so unique to this ambiguous life we live. The Miranda family is a unique family that practices these traditions since the 1960's. Most of what I was taught growing revolved around family and becoming morally ready for whatever life had to offer. Maturing ethically and practicing what my ancestors practiced as part of their culture helped shape the man I am today. For most people that cross the border from Mexico to the United States of America, they are seeking freedom and a better life. We know this as the "American Dream". It was sure to be a great year in the 70's and 80's. While my parents' got accustomed to the American Dream with my brother they had my sister Griselda in the early 70s and Rocio in the late 80's and ended with me in the early 90's.

As this diaspora journey continues for the Miranda family so do stories of becoming accustomed to the American culture. Growing up in a family where you had to cross a border to Mexico wasn't an easy task. For my family this was always a time where once again would pack up our bags and return to the homeland to visit Abuelita, since my dad's father had passed away before I was born. This left for a very interesting trip. It was times like this where I felt like part of me wanted to stay in Mexico and part of me wanted to come back home to the central coast of California. What my family learned here was that we left our homeland without wanting to leave it. And even though Abuelita left us in 2018. This is not change our idea of where we came from.

But it does tell us that when you love where you come from, you appreciate what you have and you appreciate your culture. Living in the United States with the immigrant family and a Mexican culture is not easy. Growing up, my brother told me about stories of him being bullied because he was Mexican. He also would tell me about how he only had one pair jeans to wear for an entire week of school because mom and dad were out working in the fields and living paycheck to paycheck. This is what my diaspora is, this is where I come from, and this is how I live. Now you may begin to think that this family is crazy, does it like other people, and for all your Spanish speakers you might be thinking estos cabrones. They left Mexico, they left their tacos and their family. But don't let that fool you we know where we come from and we know what our family is about and what I most care about is the culture that grandma and grandpa were able to instill in me. I hope that one day my kids can go into the city of Mexicali in Mexico and know that that's where grandma and grandpa came from. I want people to read this book and be able to say that it's OK to come from different parts of the world. You make decisions in life that form your own diaspora. Sometimes we leave the homeland for better success and that is what my parents' did. They left Mexico and came to the United States to give their children a better opportunity at life.

CHAPTER 2: Becoming American

After familiarizing themselves with American culture. The Miranda's became to what is modern day known as the Mexican American family. Talking to people about how our journey to the America's became one of the best decisions mom and dad could've made. It's hard to say what life would've been like if they would've chosen to stay. It was the pure luck of my parents' that we were able to cross the border with no restrictions. Growing up all I remember is being asked whether I was American born or not when crossing the border. I remember border patrol agents always seeming so serious like if it was a crime for us to enter the United States. Growing up as a family that lived paycheck to paycheck was hard. I didn't have the shoes and the clothes and toys the other kids had. I was always stuck getting everything after the following year that it was released. I also found it hard as a Mexican American boy to fit in with the white people in my town. Growing up I was able to be in a diverse community where anything I said was heard by the entire town. Even though growing up, wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. What I did know was that I was not an original American born white male. My skin color was different my hair color was different and I ate differently. As an adult I feel like writing this book will better help me understand how I got to where I am today. Writing this book I want people to know that it's okay not to be home. Sometimes you have to leave your homeland to become somebody. It's hard to say whether my family is diaspora will live on forever because we know that our time on this planet the subtle but beautiful. Knowing that your ancestors used to make food out of things like corn and meat is simply beautiful. Knowing that we practice the same cultural eating habits that my ancestors practice is awesome. Every time my family gets together it's a sign that we are

able to embrace the culture of The United States of America which is so diverse. This makes me much more of a human being than anything else. Knowing how my mom and dad and siblings struggled growing up helps me conclude that leaving your homeland doesn't mean that you stop practicing what your ancestors practiced or that you stop speaking the language they spoke. You embrace the culture, and embrace the change and become molded into mixed culture human beings. I had help growing up from my brother who was born in Mexico but became a US citizen shortly after emigration diaspora journey with my mom and dad. Esther and Napoleon became very proud of Manuel because he embraced the American culture upon arrival to King City, California. With the birth of Griselda, my sister, about a year later here came the Miranda's with two field working mom and dad and two Mexican-American kids embracing the gringo communities in an everlasting changing world.

The change that was brought to our family by coming over to the United States and leaving our homeland of Mexico was something that was destined to happen. Without this we would not be writing the story you wouldn't be reading these words. Being caught in moments like this in history is beautiful. It was at this moment that I felt the need to explain to others around me that don't understand where they come from. Being able to trace back to your indigenous roots is something many can't do because grandma and grandpa are gone already. Don't hold back from finding out who you are. Don't forget that you came from a certain culture that you may not know about. It was through my families' diaspora that I was able to trace back to my Mexican roots back in Mexicali. Even though this doesn't seem as far away from the United States of America because it is a border city just means that it was that much more

diverse. Living in a family where culture is so important to one, it is hard to trace back to where you came from and who you came from. As my family faced segregation in the 1970s and 1980s they still had to figure out a way to explain how this emigration story of my family has led us to where we are now.

I don't think without leaving our homeland we would be able to grow. I believe that in order to grow you need to leave the homeland and explore with the world has to offer. That is exactly what my mom and dad did for their family.

CHAPTER 3: Growing up in the 1990's

My birth certificate reads Napoleon Ricardo Miranda. A lot of people might think wow what a Mexican name. But really it kind of sounds Spanish. Knowing that my name traces back to Spain makes me feel a little bit “White”. Being a kid in 1990s wasn’t as easy as it looked, we were in the beginning of a technological boom. Growing up in the technology era made it hard to be able to practice original cultural values. That is why when you traced back your families’ cultural practices that is crucial to follow them and practice them so you can teach your children what their ancestors did. Growing up in a family of four with Manuel, Griselda, and Rocio. Made it difficult for a family to be together. Since we only practice our culture during the holidays, it’s hard for us to not help but think what it would’ve been like to spend time with my great great grandpa and ask him where we really came from. Growing up I asked my mom, where is your dad’s dad from and she can never answer that for me. I hope to build a family fast so they can know what their grandpa did and even though we didn’t make a cultural significant change in this world growing up I asked my mom, where is your dad’s dad friend and she can never answer that for me. I hope to build a family fast so they can know what their grandpa did and even though we didn’t make a cultural significant change in this world, I want them to know that there pompon grandma came across the border from one country to another to give them a better chance at life. I want him to know that growing up in the 1990s was different then with their grandma and grandpa grew up in the 60s. I want to be able to inspire children and adults and all people to search where they came from. You grow up thinking being the minority is a disadvantage. But you shouldn’t think that because when one family and is a disadvantage. But

you shouldn't think that because when one family endures struggle, crosses borders, leaves their family behind because they're involved in the drug trade, this is what makes us family. Knowing that if I were to stay in Mexico with my aunts and uncles I probably wouldn't be here writing this book. Unfortunately, growing up in the 1990's with an ever changing family helped me understand why my mom and dad made the trip over to The United States of America. In a way it was a forced trip off the homeland. Some may say that my brother and sisters became separated from the family to follow their own dreams. Growing up in the central coast of California in the 1990s and 2000s made it easy to follow what you wanted to do. Schools curriculums were changing. School shootings were starting to become popular. Could remember in 2001 one I believe when the twin towers were bombed. I was a fourth grader and my parents' were getting ready to leave to work in the morning just like the past 15 years now I was noticing the sacrifice he had Could remember in 2001 I believe when the twin towers were bombed. I was a fourth grader and my parents' were getting ready to leave to work in the morning just like the past 15 years now I was noticing the sacrifice they had made for us to be safe. I remember them waking me up and telling me to get in the room with them because they were not sure what was going to happen. I remember them crying and yelling. All I could remember is my dad say "te dije vieja que bueno que nos vinimos para el Estados Unidos que bueno que trajimos a nuestros hijos para acá. Esta es la primera vez que me siento en paz en los Estados Unidos por eso nos venimos paca". I knew that in the moment my parents' decision for us to be an American family instead of a traditional Mexican family was the right decision becoming part of this culture this American culture was something I can get used to you. The dad I knew that in that moment my

parents' decision for us to be an American family instead of a traditional Mexican family was the right decision becoming part of the scorching this American culture was something I can get used to. After that day I realized what being an American was about. Seeing everybody become one with and one another was awesome. Seeing how the teachers cared for every student that day was amazing. That was something that helped me embrace the American culture that I was living in at the time.

Having the proper guidance as a Mexican American boy growing up was an easy task. The only reason that came easy to me was because of the great virtuous traits that I share from my Abuelito's and Abuelita's on both sides of my family. Being able to travel to places like Mexico, Argentina, and Puerto Rico were all opportunities that I had growing up. My brother lived in all three of those countries one is a US territory. Growing up being so diverse help me understand my diaspora because I didn't know what that was before writing this book. I do wonder sometimes what it would've been like to live in the land of my ancestors. At the same time I may have ended up dead already like some of my cousins who are younger than me and I'm only 26. All because of the illegal drug trade of cocaine. Sometimes leaving the homeland could be the best decisions that a parent can make. For my family it was the best decision because without that, Manuel my brother was able to endure the removal from his homeland which was Mexicali Mexico.

Realizing who I was took me till the fourth grade and it took a significant event in history to make me feel American. This doesn't change my outlook on who I am now and what I've become. Realizing that it took me till the fourth grade to feel like this was different and difficult.

I feel like I would have been caught up in other business deals and not writing this book if I were to have stayed in Mexicali, Mexico. Growing up into the 2000s late 2010 was an interesting experience. I was able to meet a very nice family while attending church here's a story about how this family changed my diaspora journey here in the United States of America.

Growing up In the midst of a changing area I was able to see that I was surrounded by mostly Mexicans not only was I surrounded by these people of my culture but every move they made every restaurant they opened every superstore that was open brought me closer to these people. When I say these people I mean the DACA students. It wasn't easy then and it's not going to be easy now no only way to help these people are to have their back's and to let them know that anytime they become frightened or scared of any sort they have somewhere to go. A classroom or a piece of paper isn't going to determine what you do in life but your actions will determine where you head in life. I believe this battling of the of this social issue Of undocumented students been able to study in the American university system is crazy I can't even believe that our government has let it come to this extent. Every single headline that I have read this year about DACA students has always been negative ever since it made headlines in two thousand and twelve when the Dreamers really made national and international headlines. The opportunity that these students get is close to none. Which for us is never a good feeling.

I remember this family that went to my church all undocumented with the baby brother being the only one who was born in the United States. With the goal in mind that he will be able to "fix" them all up with their papers. Again we go back to this "paper" idea that you need a piece of paper that determines whether you are able to get an education in the United States of

America. It's crazy what undocumented students have to go through just to have a piece of papers. Reality in 2010 it was crazy to know that somebody could graduate from high school and have such a hard time getting a bachelor's degree. Growing up around this family made me respect education. Not only did it give me the power to get ahead in life but it also helped open my eyes to the crucial government that runs our nation. Thinking about the days in church with this family and all the kids really made me realize how special others can be not only did this family make it here but their children wanted to take full advantage of education they didn't want to be treated like outsiders every time I talk to them in church all they could talk about is going to the university and getting their education and getting ahead in life little did they know that this would be nearly impossible after the community college campuses. I really didn't get why this family love this country so much I mean the mom worked in the fields that worked in the fields and even the kids worked in the fields just to put food on their table. I wish she wasn't so hard on the little kids because sometimes it will make them think that it was impossible to achieve something like this. Little did they know that they would be called dreamers five years later!

After we all graduated high school it really set in every time I would come home for break my mom would tell me son what's going on with Rolando is he still studying did he get his degree what you going to do next. I believe that the only reason she would ask me this is because he was the salutatorian of the 2006 graduating class of King City High. In my head all I thought was, how a student so gifted can be turned down because of a piece of paper. After college I was able to get with Rolando and ask him how his experience was. He had a move down to Los

Angeles to study at Cerrito's Community College in Orange County, he said he really enjoyed it but that there were too many people there with the same attitude as him with a question of are we going to get into university system are we going to need certain papers to study what we want and will we be able to land jobs after we go to school. All these questions baffled me and made me sad that one can study for so long and try to get ahead in life and it all comes down to a piece of paper that was sent by the stupid government. In reality I disagree with the government I think they need to start practicing Buddhism and come to reality and help people who need help. Even though I get like this about the dreamers makes me sad to think that they will never have a future just because of a piece of paper sometimes we can go out and say they look at them from here and judge them right off the back.

In the end we can begin to talk about how we can't find ourselves. And how we shut doors to dreamers when all they are trying to do is get an education. In the story with my family and Rolando's family it was a tough situation for both families. Not only for the dreamers but also for the citizens of the United States of America. It was really tough to watch Rolando and his family grow up, I really saw how it was to live paycheck to paycheck. When I began my capstone project I didn't think I would get this personal about it, but when it comes to a family that you're around every week sometimes twice a week you really get to know that family, and you really get to know what type of people they are. In this family there were four guys know girls and all very talented and very smart A+ students. You know when the family is in need are you want to do is help, but in reality you just have to sit back and allow some space and listen and watch. I can remember ever since the first grade when I first met this family how smart

Rolando and his little brothers were. Not only did the younger brother help me with my own homework, but I also had the luck of working with their parents' because they were our Sunday school teachers so I know how much education meant to them. Then came the second grade where I was already a couple of reading levels below the level I should be at. During this time I was faced with a dilemma, do I stay quiet or do I reach out for help. At the moment I felt helpless but I knew that if I went to Rolando and his family I knew we would be able to overcome this obstacle. All this without knowing that 15 years later we would be dealing with this DACA student situation. Crazy to think that it was "The Dreamers" (Rolando and his brothers) that helped me get to where I'm at in life now.

It takes time to get to know a family, but it takes a decision from an inconsiderate congressman or president to hinder the student's goals and aspirations. I can't get over the fact that it up to some random white man like Donald Trump to decide whether somebody will have the right to finish their education or will he/she have to stop what they are doing completely and just move on with life. It sickens me that our world and country have come to this point. I believe it's time to stand for all these students. It's time to voice our opinions, especially for students who aren't dreams. Rolando and his brothers are the types of people who need our support and our ideas to go out and fight for what they have earned. Don't let some stupid inconsiderate white business man who shouldn't be president of the United States of America decide whether you continue being a "Dreamer" or you let some random human being decide your fate. Anything is possible in today's world you just have to stand up and FIGHT for it!

I remember a specific moment and 2009 when we had a barbecue chicken for our church. Little did I know that this day would change Rolando's perspective on white people for good, after about two hours of grilling chicken we had our first customer, he was in a very nice old man but Rolando and myself, have the pleasure of dealing with him. He told the Rolando that he didn't want to be helped by him that he wanted me to help him because I knew English and I look like I could speak English to me this was very disrespectful and made me think about how racist people can be. As the day went on we spoke about the situation and it turned out to be that he was very hurt by what the old man had said, I told her not to worry and that with time the pain would heal. I stressed to him that we were churchgoers and that we couldn't feel resentment towards others we have to open up our hearts and just think about the positives that come out of the situation. Little did I know that we would be facing a much larger challenge for the years to come, these were the types of situations we dealt with on a daily basis as my diasporic journey continued.

CHAPTER 4: 2010-2014

“Que Dios te bendiga” These are my favorite words that my mother tells me every time I leave the house. These are the words she told me when I left for college in 2010. My mother is a very, very, very, Christian woman. Her faith is bigger than my whole entire families combined. Growing up made it difficult for my mother to grasp the American culture. Growing up with different ethnicities around us made her aware of what America really was.

After high school I was ready to meet the world that is when I left to San Luis Obispo California to pursue a career in business. I attended Cuesta community college for three years where I was able to get an associate’s degree in communications. This helped me become who I am today. Leaving my hometown of King City meant that I was going to encounter other cultures in my diasporic journey and I would have to adapt to them. Luckily growing up I was taught to value every opportunity that comes to you. Becoming a diverse college student is a great trait to have. You want to be able to adapt to all cultures when you’re faced with those opportunities. I grew the most while I was in college as far as being ethnically diverse. I met people from all races.

While in college I shared a dormitory suite with an Asian, Indian, Black, and White roommates. This made my life a lot easier after living with them for a year. I was able to adapt to all different types of languages. I was able to share my cultural practices with them. It was after the 3rd year that I decided to stir up my family’s diasporic journey and create my own diaspora experience. After three long years I realize that it was time to become independent and traveled

to a Caribbean island called Puerto Rico. This would mark the beginning of my very own diaspora experience. This is where I was able to adapt and fully grow with another culture.

CHAPTER 5: 2014-2019

Adapting to the Puerto Rican culture was my favorite part of living there. I was able to learn the language I was able to adapt to the food they ate and I was also able to adapt to the way they conduct business. With the help of my brother I was able to achieve cultural diverse moments where I learned what it was to come from another culture and other ancestors. Moving to Puerto Rico help me become understanding that it's OK to come from other cultures and backgrounds. I found it easy to relate to people because I speak Spanish. I also found it easy to adapt to their way of living because of the Caribbean nature. I found that most people there traced back to the Taino Indians. I realize that Christopher Columbus was a vital part in the islands come I also found it easy to adapt to their way of living because of the Caribbean nature. I found that most people there traced back to the Taino Indians. I realized Christopher Columbus was a vital part in the islands history. The experience I had in Puerto Rico in 2014 and 2015 was something that I would not change ever. With the help of my brother and sisters and my parents' I was able to shape my own diaspora experience and become a more culturally and ethnically diverse person. And even though there are drugs and bad people out there that doesn't mean you need to get involved in the trade. Take a step back and get in tune with where you came from ask questions to your family call and even though there are drugs and bad people out there that doesn't mean you need to get involved in the trade. Take a step back and get in tune with where you came from ask questions to your family, ask where you came from and what your ancestors did before you. Believe that you can achieve culturally diverse communities.

Even if that means leaving your homeland. My diaspora experience began when I left the central coast of California and headed for the beautiful island of Puerto Rico.

It made me realize that there was more out there in the world than where you live. The capacity he gave me was so high that I was able to relate to every single culture I come across. After living in Puerto Rico for a year I realized that our way experiences shape who we are now. This experience of being removed from my homeland came to me at a very low cost both monetary and mentally. Becoming part of the Puerto Rican culture is a memory that I will forever cherish. Living with Taino Indians and practicing their indigenous ways of eating cornmeal and rabbit and other foods that you don't regularly eat anywhere else was an experience that I will forever remember. Adapting to the language in their pace of life is something that I will practice as long as I'm alive. My family's diaspora experience and my diaspora experience have helped shape me to be the person I am today. Without these experiences we wouldn't be in the year 2019 writing about how Napoleon Ricardo Miranda's Mexican-American Diaspora experiences helped him become a successful 27 year old college graduate from California State University Monterey Bay. These experiences also changed people's way of thinking about their homeland and their ancestors.

To be continued....in the near future.

Reflective Essay

As I shaped the style and outline of my senior capstone project I was able to learn a lot of things about myself and family along the way. I was able to use my own style of writing to shape the aesthetics of my project. I wanted to create a story that fit the reading style for most people and that was easy to read and digest. I kept in mind that every reader would interpret it differently so I decided to stick with one style of writing instead of jumping back and forth with the idea that reader would become part of the story. In coming up with statements and stories about my family, I found that it was going to be a challenge to get a reader's attention without giving up my main focus of the story. I wanted to give the readers and my colleagues a chance to look what I really think about my culture and where I came from. All this adds to the aesthetics of my senior capstone project. Making everything the same font and size throughout the entire project was my aim to display a truly balanced and pleasing aesthetic style to short stories that helped my readers draw a connection to diaspora.

This project was meant for people of all ages and cultures. Anybody who is willing to listen to a story about a family who truly adapted to the American culture after leaving our homeland of Mexico for a better work experience. The purpose of this project was to display my understanding and knowledge of the course theme which was “diaspora”. I want my readers and colleagues to know that it’s okay to come from different backgrounds and cultures. One of the only thing Diasporas requires to be to adapt to the cultures that you encounter after your dispersal. Another key aspect to this project was to display my family’s own mission from

Mexico to the Central Valley of California for a better work experience and to give their children a chance to live the American Dream.

Creating this project and directly relating it to the course theme was an easier process than I thought it would be. The underlying issue was how long I should make the paper. Originally I had set a goal of 15-25 pages. I was able to stick to that number and came up with a 22 page capstone project with clean cut titles and rich text that was readable for all audiences. Allowing time for revision was one of the tougher aspects of this project. There was also time constraints and other issues that played into shaping my final capstone project. Just like a key component of “diaspora”, one has to be able to adapt to certain situations that arose throughout the semester while creating my senior capstone project.

As this project came together and blended really well with the course theme I was able to enjoy the process of shaping my stories and related directly back to the course theme. I was also able to dive back to my families past and tell the world about the sacrifice that my parents’ made to give their children a better chance to succeed in life. That’s the purpose of this project to show how far you have come and how one has adapted to the American culture even though their homeland was left behind, we have to remember that we live in the same world with other humans so be sure that while you’re going through the process of life to adapt to all cultural differences and try new things. The process that this project endured helped shape its unique use of the word diaspora and how it can have more than one meaning and characteristic. As the project concluded I was able to relate the theme, project, and class to, was that because of my parents emigration diaspora to the United States of America for better work experience my

parents decision to leave their homeland was the right decision as well as morally ethical because it provided an outcome that benefited my entire family and not just themselves. I believe that we can become culturally diverse individuals just by figuring out where one's original homeland is. History is constantly changing, this project helped draw a connection between my family, school, and personal life experiences. As well as conclude my undergraduate graduate studies in the field of human communication with a concentration in practical and professional ethics.

After the conclusion of my short story I was able to say that it turned out like a mini bibliography about my family's diaspora. It became somewhat of a cultural artifact for my family. A short piece of text if you will. I was able to conclude the project and short story with a significant ending that explains my own diaspora and how I was able to get to where I am today. If it wasn't for this capstone project. I was able to see that even though I came from a minority cultural group I was able to adapt my Mexican roots and intertwine them with American roots and tell a story about my very own Mexican-American diaspora.

Final Synthesis Essay

As a student of the HCOM 475 I was able to adapt to the setting and the guidelines of the course and share what it was like to grow up as Mexican-American in the central coast of California. Everyone's journey on this earth has a cultural significance. Prior decades of ancestors have sacrificed blood, sweat, and tears to have the freedom that we have now. If it wasn't for my parents leaving their homeland of Mexico this project would have never happened. Through this theme of "diaspora" I was able to realize that my purpose as a student at California State University Monterey Bay has been fulfilled with the help of this course and its theme. I concluded that through this course I was able to adapt to the American culture and its traditions even though my parents left my ancestors land of Mexico. This creative short story allows readers across all cultures to relate to each other.

Coming from a minority group as modern day Americans would say, is not easy. Through this course and its theme I was able to craft a unique short story about my family's story in the United States. My parents were able to adapt to the culture and language just as my siblings did. Luckily I was able to do the same and apply what I learned in HCOM 475, and with what I know about "diaspora" I can say I was able to adapt to American culture and learn a different language and practice different cultural norms and ideas that come with being a Mexican-American college student in his mid to late twenties. Also I have accepted the fact that as humans we need to be aware of our surroundings and we have to adapt to all situations that arise. This is what makes diaspora so beautiful. Everybody's diaspora is different become familiar with your roots and ancestors. Through this course I was able to conclude that social institutions like universities

can help individuals become more refined humans ready to face everyday problems in society. Without this course and theme we wouldn't be able to adapt to the new world that awaits after the conclusion of this project.

At the conclusion of this project I was able collaborate with others as well as myself to produce a finished product that I was proud of. As well as produce a piece of creative literature that is interesting and interactive for all readers. I was able to write a short novel. Which is something I never thought I would be able to achieve. I was able to set goals and meet my own standards that I set out to accomplish. Producing a 20+ page creative short story essay takes time and patience. Both of those are key characteristics for successfully understanding our course theme.

My favorite part about this project was working independently to figure out what I actually wanted to put on paper. Knowing that my family's story will be available for future generations of my family and children is great feeling. Knowing that my ancestors worked hard to get ahead in life also helped with understanding independence and how self-will is important. If you want something go out and get it, find answers to your questions. This will help you become an independent individual with the proper tools to be successful in life.

In the beginning of the course there was one reading that I was able to resonate with the best, the article titled "*Defining Diaspora, Refining a Discourse*" written by Kim D. Butler from Rutgers University she states "The word "diaspora" is defined, at its simplest, as the dispersal of people from its original homeland". I was able to see the wider picture of the course theme and how I applied it to my undergraduate experience here California State University Monterey Bay.

As I created my short story I kept in mind how I was creating a document for my own family that talks about our epic journey from Mexico to the central coast of California and how adapting to life in another country could be beneficial.

I believe this senior project meets the proper standards and criteria for a creative project. As

I crafted my piece of literature that has its very own genre, I was able learn about my very own family. I was able to talk too and get my parents' view on what life would have been if we stayed in Mexico. I believe that this senior project and the course theme of "diaspora" has had a significant impact in my undergraduate studies and has prepared me with the proper tools and guidance to become a successful individual.