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LS-398  
9/20/19

## Chapter 1 Summary

This week we began with our presentations and most importantly the interviews. So far, all the groups have done a great job at presenting and the interviews have been so interesting and unique. I hope that through these interviews we can all learn more of each other and really get to know each other a little better.

Danielle's interview was so captivating since the beginning. She has been through so much and yet she has such a happy and calm personality. Something that we have in common is that both of our dads have a problem with alcohol. When she mentioned that she had to share a bedroom with her brother up until middle, made realize that I'm very lucky that I've always had my own room and my own bed since I was a child. Her father worked really hard to add more bedrooms to the house and finally have her own room. I admire her courage and bravery of deciding to walk from the US border with Mexico all the way to the Canadian border. She faced so many obstacles, but never gave up and kept going to reach her destination. My parents would probably think I was crazy if I had decided to do something like this, Danielle was very lucky to have her parents support to do something so adventurous, but filled with a lot of dangers. After hearing her story, I know she will be a great teacher in the future, she may even want to take her class hiking somewhere and show them how adventurous she is.

Lily's story was also filled with so much personal information that left me speechless. Right from the beginning she shared that both of her parents were deaf therefore she had to learn sign language to communicate with them. Once she started school, she had trouble learning

obviously because she was not used to speaking with others. At some point of her life, she was put into special education classes due to her problems with learning. After graduating from high school, she began working at a grocery store where she was in charge of decorating cakes, which she enjoyed doing. She lived in Texas for a while, but decided to come back to California when she realized that her boyfriend at that time, did not have the same ideas when it came to family and marriage. It all worked out for her when she came back because she met the love of her life whom she then married and had two great kids with. It was really shocking to hear that she commutes from the LA area(not sure) to CSUMB, she stays here for 3 or 4 days and then she drives all the way back home to be with her family. She has to sacrifice a lot of things in her life, but I know that once she's done with school it will all be worth it. Her entire family will be extremely proud of her, she will definitely be a great special education teacher considering that she has lived through it personally.

Finally, I really liked how Melissa shared photos while sharing her story. It was so funny when she mentioned that her parents did not allow her and her sister to get haircuts, even though recently she got a haircut and they actually got mad at her. That's something that I'm definitely not familiar with, cause in my house, my parents did not have this 'rule'. I also graduated from Alisal High School and I live in East Salinas. Even though east Salinas has not always have a positive reputation, I can say that now it's a lot safer to be part of this community. No matter what, I will always be proud of being from Salinas, the town where I have made so many memories that I will never forget.

In conclusion, I hope that by the end of the semester we will all know each other a little better and simply learn that each person has their own unique story. Within our stories we can ultimately find similarities with others whom we can possibly create friendships.