

Journal and Reflection of Claire Clairmont's Journals

Wednesday, October 7

This morning I woke up in West Yellowstone, Montana. I opened the motel door to see what the weather was like, and it was cold. Ok, maybe not that cold, but I'm from Texas. I forgot to mention; yes I am traveling during a pandemic. I was pretty nervous about it at first, but we have been very safe. My geography teacher takes students on an educational trip to Yellowstone National Park every year, but this time was a little different.

Anyways, I was more excited for today than any other part of the trip. When we got to Old Faithful, I was astonished by what I saw. When the geyser started to erupt, my eyes were glued to what was in front of me. Water was shooting up in the air over 100 feet.

We drove over to Firehole river, where I quickly changed into some waders. I got to go into the freezing river and collect some samples. After we did some experiments to test the pH, phosphate levels, and dissolved oxygen levels, we headed back to the small but mighty town of West Yellowstone. It was our last night here, but it was also the first night of the Vice Presidential Debates. While eating, we watched the events of the debate unfold on our phones in front of us. We drove back to the motel and I hopped on the recordings from my online classes that day, starting the hours of homework I needed to complete. Bye.

Thursday, October 8

Today was not as exciting as yesterday, but much better than being stuck at my desk in Houston. We had plans to stop at a really, really monumental place. At least monumental for teens in our generation. The leaves were beginning to change, showcasing brilliant colors.

When we finally made it to Salt Lake City, we drove around the University of Utah, while our driver excitedly gave us a 'tour'. Maybe I will add it to my Common Application. After seeing the city for around thirty minutes, we headed to East High School. High School Musical was filmed here! Due to corona, we couldn't go inside, but we took dozens of photos outside.

Back at the hotel, we said goodbye to our driver, who had served us tremendously well. It was a sad parting, because we knew we would be heading back into reality.

Friday, October 9

Today we went back home! Everything went smoothly, except my bag getting pulled aside and searched. After security, we headed to our gate and waited to board. I got lucky and I sat next to my two good friends. The flight was pretty calm until the last thirty minutes. WORST LANDING OF MY LIFE. We had to fly through some clouds from a hurricane in the gulf, and it made for a very uncomfortable descent. I swear we dropped fifty feet at one point.

When I got home, I headed straight for the shower to scrub any COVID germs off my body. I then facetimed Nana to tell her about my trip. She wanted every picture I took, of course. I ate dinner, did some homework, and now I'm writing this. I have to wake up at 9:00 tomorrow :(goodnight!

Saturday, October 10

I woke up this morning bright and early to get ready for my poll-worker training. It was a two hour course that taught us the basics of our jobs, and what we needed to know for Election Day. Only 24 more days! I finished that and then went to make myself lunch. My days at home are pretty boring to be honest. Today, I had a panini for lunch, so I kind of spiced it up.

The best part of today is that I got my senior pictures back, and I actually really like them. I'm excited to show my grandparents, so they can update my seventh grade yearbook picture.

I cleaned my room, did my laundry, finished my resume, and now I'm doing this. Ok, I'm going to bed. Bye.

Sunday, October 11

I started my day with Zoom church. It's the only thing on Sunday that my parents make us participate in, but I actually enjoy it. I can't wait until we're able to go back to church in person, though.

I didn't do much today, like usual. But now I'm going to do a soccer exercise, and then head to bed.

Monday, October 12

I had classes today! I missed seeing my teachers during the trip, so I'm glad to be back. I also got to see my teammates for a soccer call, so that was really fun.

The coolest part about my day was that I submitted four college applications!!!! I'm really glad to get those out of the way. Ok. Peace!

Tuesday, October 13

Today was a really, really great day. My dad got my family tickets to see Dr. Biden speak at a rally. We left the house and headed to NRG park. It was a drive in rally, so we watched from inside our cars.

It was a great experience to hear some of the politicians speak. They mainly talked about early voting, which made me sad, because I won't be old enough to vote this year. I also downloaded this video game that's trending called Among Us. It's pretty fun, but also distracting. I'm going to go play... bye.

Wednesday, October 14

It's the last day of keeping this journal! I actually really enjoyed writing each night, so maybe I'll start doing it on my own. Today was one of my best friend's birthdays. Usually I would get to see her in real life, but it was too risky this year with corona. I sent her some cookies to be delivered to her house, and she loved them! Now I'm about to head to sleep. It's technically Thursday now, since it's 12:33, but who's counting.

Peace!

Reflection:

After reading Clairmont's journal, I actually noticed many similarities between the events in our days. While Clairmont was traveling for most of her trip, I also had a few days of

traveling. We both stayed in small towns, and in inns/motels. This was such a coincidence! I noticed how independent teenagers were back in the nineteenth century. I could never imagine traveling through towns without supervision, but it's probably because it is very unsafe to do so currently. I do not think Clairmont had to worry too much about sketchy men, kidnapers, or thieves. In society today, women are taught to be extremely careful about our surroundings. It is risky for women to travel alone in some places, but especially teen girls.

Right now, our focus is on politics. I think that the movements going on really affect the events and experiences I have each day. For example, I went to a political rally and completed an Election Day training. I feel like with what is happening today, I need to learn as much as I can to stay up to date in the news. The events in my journal really emphasize what teenagers these days are involved in. Most people I know, even with all of the stresses of school and college applications, stay up to date in politics. We attend different events to further our knowledge on the world. Traveling is part of this, as well. Like Claire Clairmont, it is important to go outside into nature to understand what is around us. It is also important to stay inside and stay educated. Both the events in my journal, and the ones in Clairmonts, show what it is like to be a teenager during important times, in different ways.