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Final Reflection

Life is Ever Changing

“I don’t feel it is necessary to know exactly what I am. The main interest in life and work is to become someone else that you were not in the beginning.”

Michel Foucault mentioned this in *Technologies of the Self*; I feel that this statement is very applicable in today’s society due to all the high technology advancements that the human population has made possible. Prior to cell phones and computer-based technologies, there lived a world where the whole concept of communication was vastly different then what is now in the 21st century. People talked socially and politically every day, we still do, but through the means mostly of technologies like cellular devices and computers. In a world without such technologies, people gathered near and far to communicate and to understand their culture. Letters were often the best source of information. Scholars scribed notes by hands. Key daily concepts that rule our world socially and politically today started in eras of debate and innovation.

The roots of philosophy helped many people to think outside the box and to question what is bestowed before them. Why should we listen to the king or emperor? Why do we think? Is there more available then what meets the eye? These questions led people to develop alternative routes of expression ultimately creating new styles of living. Republics, democracies, anarchists,

Christians, atheists, and even socialism derives from an understating, an attitude of change and choice.

In *The Politics of Truth*, Foucault illustrates that “Each person has his or her own way of changing...In this regard, nothing is more arrogant than wanting to impose one’s law on others. My way of no longer being the same is, by definition, the most singular part of what I am.” I agree with Foucault and his beliefs regarding this statement. Every person on the planet has his or her own unique way and understanding of change. I disagree with monarchies and communism mostly because there is this sense of “arrogance” for even thinking of laying one’s own law upon another. It is not fair. We all have the ability to think and perceive in a different light, it may not be the same but you should respect the other person’s perception. It just might be the best way to see a certain situation.

This idea or concept of one’s own idea of change is much like making a piece of artwork. I believe that Foucault made a very relevant statement in talking about one’s change and self if it was set as making an artwork. Everyone has some sort creativity level therefore can create some type of art. I prefer found object art and someone else may prefer painting. The task is to create an artwork that resembles the sunset. While I may look for more detail parts for my artwork and resemble the sunset in a concrete form. The painter may instead use this opportunity as a guided project to see the sunset more abstractly. However, we both perceive the same sunset differently because we

are initially two different people. Creativity is a sensitive technique to express our thoughts and feelings in a beautiful manner and so the philosophical life should thus be the same way.

Living a philosophical life should not be a regurgitated impression of someone else's findings, but it should be a gentle reflection of a key concept or moral that any person can venture to come across throughout their lifetime. When an individual is aware of this reflection then it can be construed to be a period of enlightenment or a change and or an addition to one's self perception of life. If there were no change in the world, then there would not have been so many different findings and events that are distinguished between one another, Life would simply be boring. I find myself agreeing with Foucault's teachings because he is constantly testing the limits and finding breaking points. This attitude of change and rebellion is very uplifting for someone who might have been bound by chains all their life. Participating in a constant routine and not thinking or being aware of what all is available. I had this dilemma when I first went to Milton Hershey School (MHS).

MHS is a private co-ed boarding school that takes in socioeconomically challenged children and provides essential needs to live. Such as food, clothing, healthcare, and education all for a simple price of nothing! This is unheard of when I tell people where I went to high school at. However, I did not know prior to MHS that people valued opportunities like community service or education. My mother has always told me that I was going to college, but after

MHS, I thought about how I could have done it without the help from the high school and all the support that helped me along the way.

Attending MHS was my own self-path of enlightenment because I was in a place of darkness and being accepted to MHS was like walking right outside of a cave and into overbearing sunlight. Referring to Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*, I understand the journey better. I believe that philosophy helped me understand the changes and challenges that need to take place in order to be a well-rounded individual.

After attending MHS, I learned that the school made me a rather outstanding individual. I want to become a talk show host someday. Many people are very interested in this career choice, I say it with such confidence, and I do because of MHS. Jean-Paul Sartre said in *Between Existentialism and Marxism* that "I believe that a man can always make something out of what is made of him." In my case, this is very true. I can make out my career choice based on what was made of me in high school and now at Point Park University. The expectations that people have me now are extremely different than ten years ago, simply because of how much I display in my character and how much I accomplished in my eighteen years on Earth. My mother has always promoted the idea of college, yet I think to myself that she new deep down inside that I am destined for great things. I am not saying what all I did was by luck because it was not; it was simply made possible by the choices and challenges I chose to face.

I have always loved deeper level questions and my goal this semester was to take Philosophy in hopes of living a philosophical life more extensively. Surprisingly, this goal has been accomplished. As I sat in the classroom soaking in the ideas and concepts from Plato to Michel Foucault, I noticed a connection with my life. Moreover, how I arrived to Point Park University. I am still on this everlasting journey and loving every moment of it. I do not know the outcome or the end, but my favorite philosopher yet; Foucault once stated, "Never consent to be completely comfortable with your own certainties." I am not holding what I say to be the ultimate decision, but rather an ever-changing doctrine of my own truth based on experience and attitude. In closing, "The game is worthwhile insofar as we don't know what will be the end." Michel Foucault, *Technologies of the Self*, probably the most riveting philosopher of all time depicted my journey so far, I am excited to see what is in store for me in the future.