

Friday, February 1

It's been a month.

Honestly, this project has totally fallen by the wayside for me, and that's completely my fault. January was a rough transition. With constant thoughts about how to best achieve my New Year's resolutions alongside the ramping up of homework and the constant stressors of people, places, and things, I have lost track of my priorities.

I often think about other people's projects more than my own. One person's in particular that I always come back to is Amy's project on introversion and (by default, when talking about one side of a spectrum) extraversion. She has focused a lot on stimuli and how it affects different types of people, which makes me worry. I consider myself to be a big extrovert, but I keep struggling with stimuli and its effects on me. As 2019 has progressed, I find myself having more and more issues with productivity. It could be just a junior version of senioritis, or the adverse effects of having too much on my plate, but I long for respite.

However, January was not all bad! January Day happened which was crazy. I will attach photos of my project as well as my Instagram post and my two audio recordings of my speeches as inline links. Feel free to check them out!

For February, I hope to have an idea of where to progress. I've done a lot of research but it feels as if there is way more to do. I have some ideas that I've mentioned in some Lives but what I hope to do is narrow it down to just a few more categories so I'm not as stressed out about research research research and I have more time to work on overarching projects such as my documentary.

Saturday, February 2

It's been a day.

I looked back at the journal entry I wrote on February 1st (since I didn't post in January, I promised myself I would post as soon as February hit, no matter what) and decided not to post it just yet. The day I wrote it, I fell asleep before updating my website. However, my new thought is that I will compile a whole entire journal cache for every day in February and then post them all at once! Then, in March, I'll write a reflection on what happened in February and then figure out proceedings.

February should be a good month for me because Valentine's Day is in February! Love and attraction are ramping up in all my inhabited environments. Promposal season is starting in school and on social media the constant relationship posts seem to have arrived on a new influx, which I had zero clue was possible. I definitely do want to look into social media and its effects on people in February and March (depending on how long it takes me). For February, at least, I want to look at the effects enclosed environments like school and the world of social media have on teenagers via mental health and their own actions. I'm still trying to think of how I should do that though. It's something I have on my to-do list!

Another thing I plan to do is a new audio journal. It's been a long while since I did one of those, and it's a bummer! I'm not sure who I want to bring in, but I'd like to find a time to do one with two different people: one in a relationship and one not in a relationship, and see how their views of love and attraction compare and contrast.

That's all for today! I'll be back tomorrow.

Sunday, February 3

It's Sunday, and I didn't have a Live yesterday because of some family scheduling conflicts. The last Live I did was last week (at least I did that in January!) and I feel bad because I have so much to talk about! However, my uploading of said Lives has not been working because the way I was planning to upload all my attachments, via Google Drive, has worked for some clips and not for others. I should go to Help Desk and ask, but I have to find the time (and I have to remember, which is probably the bigger issue).

For today, since I don't have much of a clue on what to say, I'd like to do a recap on some of the ideas I've brought up in my Lives for those of you who either don't watch them when they happen or don't have the time to watch them afterwards! Some big ideas I've had recently push into the Creativity aspect of our 5 Cs so I think it would be good to address.

One of the ideas I had was to write a song about my personal experience (or lack of, for that matter) concerning relationships and romantic feelings. As an outsider looking in, it could be an interesting take! One thing I do want to look into with my whole social media deep dive is the commercialism behind things like love and even specific events like Valentine's Day. So many songs play the "falling in love" or "in love" cards to pander to an audience, but how many songs actually talk about the beforehand awkward stages of just not knowing? Just a thought.

Another idea I had that falls into the Creativity C was an art project-type thing that involves a Wordle of all the "ideal type" and "turnoff" responses that I got from my Opposites Attract (Or Do They?) survey back in January. It may not count for points but it's still a good physical representation and something I might want to use as reference for later on in the year (around symposium time!)

I'll talk more tomorrow about some other ideas I've had recently and some research that I've done for some parts of my ideas!

Monday, February 4

Here we are again!

One thing I really want to look into a little bit (harkening back to Amy's project and my interest in it) is personality types and how they mesh. I did the whole opposites attract thing in a survey already but in an actual relationship, are there people that work way better together than others just based on personality? It reminds me of astrology with star sign compatibility, but more rooted in reality than... in the stars. Quite literally.

For example, when I think about myself, I notice that I gain the majority of my energy from being around people. I do best in group settings and class discussions, and when I am alone I feel sapped and exhausted. From what I know about myself I can gauge what kind of person I would mesh well with, which by taking only those facts into consideration would be someone who gains their energy from people as well. Symbiosis. I give to that person what they thrive off of - conversation and interaction - and vice versa. However, I don't think that correlates to attraction. I notice in myself that a lot of my friends are much more reserved than I am. Some friends of mine joke that I turn into a golden retriever around shyer people, and I notice that! I feel this need to get people who may feel more uncomfortable in social settings to understand that they

can relax around me. Does that mean that I would be setting myself up for issues in a relationship? Possibly. I have no clue if there's any correlation between personality type and attraction which is why I want to look into it!

However, I have done some actual research lately rather than just theorizing. Turns out - no shocker here - that social media has a negative effect on mental health in teenagers! I already knew that, but now I have the research and facts to back it up. I'll be talking more about it in a future journal but I have started the basis of my research which is super exciting! I'm thinking about writing a mock up of a research paper as a display of new knowledge in the future.

Tuesday, February 5

Bott and Gergen have done it again.

Welcome to the fifth installment of February's Journal Insanity. I've got a new SDA that will knock everyone's socks off, and it's all because of a person, a place, and a thing. I'll put a link to the rubric here.

When we talked about the project, the things that stood out to me the most was that the requirement was for a narrative. I do a lot of research but a narrative, a story, is new to me. I think it's a good idea though, especially for a project like mine. How do I implement what I've learned thus far and put it into effect in a truthful story? This story might end up being really important for my target audience later on, depending how I choose to tell it.

Some ideas I have for my SDA:

- Writing about a relationship I know (my parents) and the good and bad
- Writing about being single and how other people in relationships affect me
- Writing about prom season and its effects on teenagers
- Writing about a promposal (it would have to be real though, so I'd have to ask a friend to help me out)
- Writing about how to score your dream date (along the lines of that scripted documentary thing, so it might fall too much on the not-authentic scale for this project)

That's what I have so far! I'll talk more tomorrow.

Wednesday, February 6 - Ira Glass

Bott posted [this link](#) to our EMC classroom and I thought I would just write a quick blurb about it before I head to sleep! I was really busy today and thus this is going to be super short, but I wanted to at least write something.

This video sums up how I've been feeling. With my slump in January, I'm using February as a way to get back on track, to refine my work and utilize the taste Glass speaks of. With this month, I want to make something I'm proud of. I want to take risks and create and work as hard as I can to find something new with this passion project.

I want to bridge the gap between what I think I can do and what I am going to do, and I want it to be good.

Here's to February.

Thursday, February 7

Tomorrow's the final day to get help with my Person, Place, Thing assignment, but for February, I have decided to start doing things for EMC ahead of the deadline. I asked today.

To be completely truthful, I've been talking to Bott and Gergen and my other colleagues nonstop about this project. I think I'm sticking to the promposal idea, because it is the lesser of two evils that would tell a good story. Five, to be exact. The prom season paper is more of a research paper (and I've already started research for it, so I don't want to change the formatting now) and the dream date script is too inauthentic. I don't want to write about my parents because they aren't in my demographic and I would rather be writing about relationships in February than about being single. So, a promposal it is.

When I asked everyone about what I should do, I got mixed responses. Bott and Gergen don't want to know a whole lot about the project so I had to speak vaguely, which wasn't much help. However, they both agreed with me that the promposal front wasn't a bad idea. My friends, who know me as the person who is most "not looking for a relationship", really want me to do it for their own personal reasons. I get treated like a little sister because of my age and what I focus on and at times like these, it really shows. One of my friends actually offered up their promposal as a writing topic - they are creating a fake newspaper with a lot of cute inside jokes and references for their prom date-to-be - but I don't know if I want to write about it for my SDA. I might do a journal entry on it later.

As much as I hate to say it, I think it would be better if I put myself out there and asked someone to prom myself. I say it as a writer and as a researcher - the best way for me to experience and understand will be to experience it firsthand. I also said at my January Day speech that I wanted to start facing my fears. Why not now? I can't believe I'm saying this, but I guess I have to start creating a promposal.

I'll see you tomorrow.

Friday, February 8

Today was the last day for questions about the February SDA. I don't even want to think about it. I've been racking my brain for ideas and have come up with little to nothing. I'm planning on figuring it all out over the weekend and doing the promposal before break starts after the 15th. That gives me exactly a week as of now... it's a time crunch, but everything in every project for this class feels like a time crunch. I'll definitely talk more about it tomorrow.

Today Bott posted [a video that Silma Subah did about dreams](#) for her EMC project last year. It was funny that he did that now because with my struggles in staying motivated in this class, I can now remember exactly why I started this project. This video was definitely one of the things that I was most drawn to when I first started scoping out EMC as a possibility for myself. I watched it on her website before I even went to the symposium (which was my selling point) at the end of the year and was honestly floored. It's given me the motivation to keep going and keep pushing myself to find new ways to approach my topic. If she can (literally) draw new conclusions, so can I.

Saturday, February 9

I've come to a consensus.

You would think it would be easy to do that, considering that the only person in debate is me, but apparently not! My brain likes to come up with ideas and excuses and a big part of me really does not want to set myself up for failure. Rejection is terrifying, even if it's for a project. I can't help but be worried that things won't go well. Instead of dwelling on that, I have chosen to start writing a rough draft of my research paper.

My research paper - tentatively titled The Icarus Effect - delves into the effects that an enclosed environment like school with a mass fixation like finding a date or, more generally, prom season, has on its inhabitants. One thing that I've always found insanely interesting is that high school is like its own universe with working systems to boot. We have everything from regulated food consumption to a social hierarchy and nobody but the people who live and work here are really privy to any of it. This is a world inside a world, a little environment bubble all its own, and that is something I personally find super cool.

I noticed that whenever a topic becomes the point of interest for a sizable amount of people, everyone becomes tuned to it, no matter how detached you are from the original starting point. A big instance of this is actually prom season. Even freshmen talk about going, people who don't want to go still have it on their radar, ad nauseum. Everyone's just stuck in that atmosphere of prom season prom season prom season and that, to me, is super interesting! It also kinda goes along with my research concerning social media's effect on teenagers because that's how and why this whole promposal trend has happened. It's pretty cool! I plan to use my research from that in my research paper.

I've started today, and I'll talk more tomorrow about where my paper is heading and what I plan to do with it (because at this point, I'm unsure of whether I want to use it for this new SDA or not.)

Until tomorrow!

Sunday, February 10

It is tomorrow!

Tomorrow, if I was in the Annie-verse, tomorrow would be another day away, but alas. I live in reality, where there are deadlines and papers to write and things to research. And thus! Here we are.

I have a couple ideas with what to do with this research paper. I think I'm planning to use it for my SDA but not as what I actually end up turning in. My idea is to use it as part of my promposal to really hit home on the nerdy wacky hilarity that asking someone to prom as part of a research project is. I personally think it's hilarious, but I ran it by a few friends and got mixed reviews. One close friend of mine was very adamant that I don't do that. They told me that I have to put feelings into my promposal, but I think that the asking itself has enough feelings.

The other idea is to save it for later and come up with another promposal idea. I have to do the promposal by Friday (the 15th) so it would totally be crunch time, but I could do something different. I've been on Google Images and Pinterest and Instagram scrolling like a maniac. A lot of these promposal ideas are very cutesy and over-the-top, with large posters and cheesy sayings. I'm a fan of cheese, but this project is already so terrifying to me. I want to do something that's more under the radar.

And thus, I think I'll probably stick with my research paper. It definitely won't be done by Friday - there's way more things to edit and work on - but I need to at least have a rough draft done so I have papers to show for it. I want it to look substantial. For rejection purposes I'm going to harken back to my project once again for my audio and video release form. I'm tweaking it a little bit so that it fits the nature of this project, but it'll hopefully be a good way to break the tension if a rejection ends up occurring.

I have so much work to do.

Monday, February 11

On Saturday I had another rough family meeting so I was unable to do my Live. I've been debating changing the time now but honestly - should I even have Lives right now? I've been submerged in this SDA and things are really hectic, so I might just put off my Lives until the end of February. I'm going away for break so I won't be able to do them then and I have another meeting next week that I know is going to be rough. I assume that I'll just put them off until March starts.

In my struggles with my family meetings, I've been thinking a lot about communication recently, which is one of those 5 Cs. It's really important to me in my research but I notice that it falls to the wayside in a lot of my personal relationships. I invest so much of my energy in school so when I come home, I barely talk to my parents. I've been wondering a lot more recently about relationships in general. If I end up having a significant other someday, how will I attempt to talk to them? How frequently? Will it be similar to my other styles of conversing (with friends and family)? I'm not sure.

People change in relationships. One of my most relaxed friends has become very clingy to their significant other in their current relationship. People change in general, and to me, these romantic relationships that teenagers are having are based on stability. Our whole lives are changing. Friends come and go, grades fluctuate, and classes get harder and harder. The only constants seem to be fear and stress and loss. As we grow and change, it feels like all we do is leave things behind. Teenagers nowadays are accustomed to stress and we fixate on what we lose rather than what we gain. These relationships are an obvious gain. They come with a person you can rely on, someone that is obligated to be by your side.

I want to dive more into my own thoughts on relationships tomorrow, because it's getting late and I want to finish a little more work on my paper tonight. Until then.

Tuesday, February 12

I stayed up until two in the morning last night because I couldn't sleep.

This project has been really stressful for me. Not because of the workload - that's fine and I think, for once, I'm actually dipping in and out, Hahn-style - but because of the implications it has. As social of a person I am, fear is still a tangible thing I experience in social settings where I have something to lose. I'm still struggling with writing this paper even though I have all the facts.

I have a couple ideas on who to ask, but as soon as I think about that, I get too stressed. I've narrowed it down to a few criteria. It has to be someone who doesn't know too much about my project, and someone who I wouldn't mind going with. I also don't want to ask someone that I'm

very close friends with, because I feel like that's a cop out. I have someone in mind, and I've had enough good conversations with this person to think that I could enjoy prom with them, but it's something I'm still struggling with. I'm not a feelings person.

I also can't help but worry about a rejection. I've been talking about it a lot with myself. It's also something I haven't really told people about because I'm worried about how they'll take it. I get treated like a little kid by the majority of my friends and I just don't want to add fuel to the fire. Rejection is something that I have grown to understand more this year than any other year. I can deal with rejection as it passes. I was rejected for an application to a program I wanted more than anything else, but it's an open offer for next year. I was rejected for a few opportunities this year, but after a night of sulking, it was over. Things come and go. People are different. I'm scared that if I get rejected, it will change my interactions not only with this person but the universe that surrounds them.

One thing I'm noticing is that my stress revolves around fear. The fear of failure is something that has stayed constant as I've grown up, and it's something I plan to address at my symposium speech as well (which I've been running through ideas for on the side). I think I have to just suck it up and do it. What has ever come from exploring ground that was already charted? It's time to be my own expeditioner.

Wednesday, February 13

I was hoping to ask the target (I don't know how to refer to them) to prom today, but no dice. I had no classes with them today and I didn't have my rough draft done, even after the all-nighter I pulled. Actually, does it count as an all-nighter if you got an hour of sleep? I feel like that's a nap.

Today was a slog because I've been so nervous and the day just decided to go insanely slowly. I had a rough conversation with my mom today where we debated me staying late at school tomorrow. I didn't want to tell her why I needed to stay but I ended up having to. One of the reasons I really needed to get this promposal done is because tomorrow (today, technically. I'm writing this at 2 in the morning on the 14th, but same difference) is my mom's birthday. I ended up telling her I had to ask someone to prom and she instantly went happy mom mode and wanted to be my biggest supporter. Even now, she's sitting right next to me asking what they're like and why I want to ask and what my plans are. Is this how every parent is? I have to assume so or else I'll feel like I'm getting the short end of the stick.

I still haven't finished this paper. I'm five pages in (seven with an abstract and a cover page) with a page's worth of bibliography (so eight) and I want to get to ten total before I use it. I need the weight or else I'll fly away from nerves and stress. I look back on my past journal entries and it feels like the past couple days have been more emotional than ever before. It's interesting! I remember a line Bott once used, where he said that he learns more from the journals about our personal lives in correlation to our project as compared to just the ones about our research. I hope this goes the same way.

We'll see how it goes tomorrow.

Thursday, February 14

In the past three days, I've gotten about six hours of sleep.

It's not something I would normally do. I like my sleep. I love my sleep, actually. If I had to choose between sleep and a prom date, normally? I would choose sleep in a heartbeat. Today is different. Today has changed.

As I write this, it is 2:15 and I have just finished my paper. It's horribly rough and half of it is just jargon I tossed around to put words on a page, but it's enough pages to get the job done. I need to preface today with this. I'll write more after I get home.

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It's about 10:15 as I write this now. I'm home from a rehearsal that wasn't mine to go to and a birthday dinner for my mother. I dressed up today telling myself that it was for this birthday dinner but we went home for twenty minutes in between which means that a part of me wanted to look good for this stupid promposal. I waited until the last minute. Every time I worked up any semblance of resolve, the scenes changed and I was left alone in the seats. I asked right before rehearsal ended, as they were getting notes.

He said yes.

I could end it there, but that would be pretty short. He said yes and I can't help but be ecstatic. I was so terrified of rejection that I completely forgot the other possibility. Acceptance.

Acceptance in itself is pure euphoria but to know that all of those worries I had are completely irrelevant as of right here and right now? That's drugs. Pure emotional heroin. Dopamine overdose. Hallelujah. The person I asked is very concise so I felt the need to get extra confirmation that the yes was correct. I mean, when you get a "sure" in response to the third time you've repeated the phrase "Prom?" and nothing else, you have to get confirmation. I did get confirmation. I didn't even use the rejection form (which, if I knew he was going to say yes, I wouldn't have drafted which would've saved me at least ten minutes of time).

Now I have something to write about.

Friday, February 15

It's been a day post-promposal and I have given myself even more to write about.

I asked for his phone number. Actually, I shouldn't say that. I demanded his phone number. I was pacing around the hallways when classes let out for break because we didn't have classes together and I realized that I needed to confirm some consent things for this project, rejection form aside. I was hoping to see him, and right as I was about to give up and just head to the buses, I did. It's frustrating being an initiator, especially when someone is as passive as he is. I'm used to being the one to reach out and the one that makes plans. That's my life. However, when dealing with the unknown like this, it gets so much harder to just accept one-word responses. I'm looking for substance. However, I got his phone number. That's something to check off a bucket list.

I'm still in Guilderland for the weekend before I head off to Pennsylvania for college tours during break. During that time, I'm planning to start compiling information and ideas for my narrative for the February SDA. I'll try my best to journal through the week for break! I'm going to talk more tomorrow about my exact plans now for the SDA, because I need time to just decompress from all that happened over these past couple days. I would also kill for some sleep.

Saturday, February 16



I slept for 14 hours. Worth it? Absolutely.

I was planning to text him as soon as possible so I could work on my project as soon as possible, but nerves got the best of me and I ended up waiting until the evening. I don't have many regrets though since we've talked practically all night.

One regret I do have is getting his phone number. I actually had it to begin with because we're in a group chat together. On the chatting service we use, numbers are automatically saved in your contacts. I looked like a bit of an idiot. However, it was a good place to start the conversation! I'm comfortable with joking about my idiocy and it's easier than just asking questions. I didn't get to ask about confirmation for my project but I've started working on ideas anyway. If needed, I have a backup plan with my friend's promposal. I'm planning on asking soon.

We had a conversation today about showers of all things. Hot versus cold. I despise cold showers more than I despise my APUSH review book, which says a lot. Cold showers on cold nights are sent straight from the place of double hockey sticks. I took a cold shower tonight and hated it and compared qualitative notes with a boy I already had the phone number of.

I'm starting to debate something with myself. It's something new and unexpected and through this entire project, this was the last thing I expected to have happen.

Do I have a crush?

I'll be completely truthful here. I don't think I've really ever had a proper crush. There were boys I had said I liked because everyone liked them, and boys I was thankful for that I wanted to be friends with so bad that I thought it could have been something else. Everything was shallow. This feels different and new and terrifying. I can't help but go back to the rollercoaster example I used in my January Day project. I don't know what to expect. I don't even know if I want to get on this ride or not. Honestly, right now, I don't think I even have a choice. I'm stuck on a rollercoaster and I don't know if there's a loop-de-loop or a big drop or anything. I'm just me, and he's just him, and I have so much work to do that I keep putting off because of the responding text messages I get.

I think I might like him.

Sunday, February 17

I had a family meeting today. None of them have been good. We've been talking more about college than ever before, which makes sense. I am going on college tours. I don't know how I feel about it, honestly. I got in a big argument with my mom and ended up begging my dad to stay at his place for the rest of the day before we leave for Pennsylvania.

One of the reasons I got frustrated with her is that she made a big deal of my promposal to my dad. I was hoping to talk to him on my own terms but she decided to praise me for how daring I was and how much of a milestone that day was for me. I know her intentions were good, but it felt as if she was taking an opportunity away from me. Our approaches to life are very different. Me and my dad are way more similar but my mom and I tend to clash more just due to how we act in certain situations. I feel bad for getting defensive and lashing out but I feel like both of us are culpable. My relationships with my parents and their relationship with each other is a big reason why I'm so worried about this crush thing. People see me one way, but with my parents

who I relax around, I am very different. I lash out, I get frustrated. I'm not as considerate and understanding. It's not a facet of myself I want to show to anyone, but if I ever get in a relationship, I know that I have to be open. Hiding things leads to conflict.

I ended up talking to him again today. It helped with my nerves and frustrations. Is this why people get in relationships? I can only speak for how I currently feel, but honestly, I'm not even sure how I feel. When we get back from break, I really want to do that audio journal I talked about. Maybe, if he's not too uncomfortable, I'll do an audio journal with him as well.

I'm going to write a little tomorrow, but it will be fragmented since I am visiting Haverford tomorrow in the middle of the day. Until then!

Monday, February 18

It's about seven in the morning and we have three more hours to go until we reach Haverford. It's been crazy to me, but on the outside it looks like any road trip that me and my dad take. A cappella blasts over the speakers, and we sing along. Sometimes I work on homework or I read, rinse and repeat.

College, to me, means that I'm growing up. That's a reason why I'm terrified of this trip. It'll be great to see my aunts who live in the area (we're staying with them) but it'll just be weird to be visiting colleges. That combined with this new crush thing just screams teenage to me, which bothers me. I've had enough of growing up recently. I remember that my parents used to tell me that I wanted to grow up too fast, and I never realized what they meant until now. I want to take a gap year before college because I'm so young, but the underlying reason is because I want to delay it. I want to experience the world and be young for a little longer. I'll talk about my experience at Haverford after I go.

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Haverford was amazing. It's such a small school, which I didn't think I would like, but I really did. I was excited by all the opportunities that it offered and the community aspect that it had and the focus and respect that it placed on its students. I also have a friend who goes there that joked that Haverford has the highest number of a cappella groups per capita as compared to all of Pennsylvania. In the brochure I got, it says that Haverford has a 6:1 tree to student ratio. I didn't think I would like it, but I did. I guess I can't just assume things.

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Speaking of assuming things - you can't just assume how people are going to react, either. He called me tonight to ask me out. I guess the feelings are mutual.

Tuesday, February 19

I went to Temple today. Capital letter - although right now, I kinda feel like praying.

Temple was the complete opposite of Haverford. 40,000 undergrad (and there are grad students!) as compared to almost 2,000 total. The atmosphere at Temple felt modern where Haverford's felt comfy, and the application process was more fixated on grades and SAT scores than the work ethic and character of the applicant. As someone who thought they would be more inclined toward big schools because of the opportunities and resources they offered, I was surprised to find that thus far, I've liked the super small schools. I talked to a friend of mine who

goes to Haverford and he said that it's not for everyone, but it's for him. I want to find an environment like that.

Expectations are way different compared to reality. I have realized that a lot on this trip. Even though it's only been a day, being in a relationship hasn't changed much for me. What can I say? I watched the Princess Diaries. True love stories have been pushed my way for my entire life. Every song on the radio talks about relationships to their fullest magnitude. I guess that's what sells, but I never recognized that love (or at least like, at this point) could be something different for me. Feelings, for me, are uncomfortable because I don't really understand them. It's the reason why I started this whole project in the first place. It's honestly really interesting. I think this week is a good week for me. A lot of these pent up expectations about college and boyfriends and all that jazz have been stressing me out. Sometimes it's good to just take the jump and see it for real.

Wednesday, February 20

We were supposed to visit Drexel today, but the roads were too bad to go. Snow day! I guess if I can't get them in high school, at least I'm getting them in college.

I'm working on my script today since I have no excuses to put it off. All the conversations that I've had since the 14th are under review and scrutiny. I'm debating whether just to use the conversation where I asked him to prom versus going further into the relationship, or if I should backtrack and talk about the start of the project itself at the beginning. I'm also debating whether there should be more characters besides the two main characters (your average teenager and her love interest). I feel like if it's just the two of them, it will be a really stagnant piece. Even though it's just one scene, I want the characters to feel alive and for the setting to matter, because it did. I also am not sure if the phone conversations that we've had should be done through a phone or just through face-to-face dialog.

I'll be back with more when I have more ideas.

Thursday, February 21

Swarthmore was good!

It was small just like Haverford and the community was equally as wonderful. I also got to visit a small discussion class with about 7 people that talked about different American dialects which I was super excited about. My expectations were high because of how much I liked Haverford and Swarthmore definitely met those expectations.

I think these college tours are teaching me about the importance of good relationships and a good community. I felt lost in a place like Temple where the community aspect is more spread and people are less close-knit. That also helps me to know more about what I value in relationships, whether they are with work colleagues, friends, family, or a romantic relationship. It's interesting! I'm nervous for UPenn tomorrow. It's an Ivy League school and even though I'm not looking to go there, I want to see if the Ivies live up to my expectations.

Friday, February 22

UPenn was intimidating. I don't think I want to attend there. The expectations at a place like UPenn were similar to Temple, which I didn't necessarily enjoy. However, I think the experience

was good to have. I think it's important to learn what works and doesn't work for me especially with something as important (and expensive) as a college choice.

That same idea I hope to put into practice (but not too much) with dating. Learning what I'm comfortable and uncomfortable with is important, but at the same time I don't see myself as someone who would date around, especially considering this new relationship. I never saw myself in a relationship, so this view could change, but I enjoy getting to know the person I'm saddled with now, and I don't think that will significantly shift any time soon. However, even with just one person, it's good to know what works and what doesn't work!

One thing I've noticed about a few of the schools I visited was that the admissions officers were hoping to provide information so I could make a decision that would be best for me rather than just trying to sell their school. I really liked that approach because if I don't like the school, I still want to get something out of the experience. Having someone as important as an admissions officer on my side with that idea helped me to warm up to the colleges they worked at. It's something I noticed more in the smaller schools like Haverford and Swarthmore.

I think in a relationship, that same openness is necessary. Comfortability may not be instantaneous, but for any good relationship to work out, you need to talk about each side of the relationship and what works and what doesn't. I don't currently know how to breach the topic in my relationship, but it's only been a few days. Starting out the way we are, new and unsure, I think it's fine that we don't delve into that instantaneously. I do have worries though, concerning dating. I want to be someone that he can be comfortable around but I also have lots of worries about him seeing me as what I want to show. That may not seem comfortable to some, but currently I'm more comfortable being happy and bright (which is the majority of myself) as compared to some of the more lethargic and pessimistic aspects of me. I'm sure that's normal, but I worry for when it comes up nonetheless.

What will it be like when colleges read my applications? What will it be like when we have a deeper conversation? I'm not sure of either quite yet, but I'm equal parts excited and nervous to find out. The scientist in me hopes to learn new things, but the teenager is terrified of all the possibilities. We'll see.

Saturday, February 23

No college visits today, and I go home to Guilderland tomorrow right before school starts on Monday. It's nice to stay in and spend time with family. I assume I must look like an idiot as I write this, because I'm going between my phone and my laptop and smiling like mad at both. I'm working on my script while I text him, and since I've finally gotten explicit permission to use his words in my script, I'm moving a lot faster. It's also nice to have someone to talk to. As an only child, I'm used to preoccupying myself, but I have a penchant for conversation. My family is tired after a long day of playing games and usually I would be insanely bored on my own, but I have company. I'm thankful for it.

There's a lot of things I'm thankful for now that I have a boyfriend, which still sounds insanely weird. The words don't feel quite right coming from me, and I don't know when they will. I assume that I'm just hyper-aware because of all my research.

Speaking of my research! I've been noticing a lot of the opening signs of attraction and infatuation in myself, which is equal parts weird and fulfilling. I'm happy to see that my research

is accurate, but due to all my research, I know of all the possible pitfalls that could occur. I've been more happy in general. I've been going to sleep late and waking up early in the morning without feeling tired, and I've been less hungry. The lack of sleep and loss of appetite are common symptoms, and I assume the happiness is from this new change and the new knowledge that there's someone who thinks I'm good enough to date. I also notice that it's easier for me to tune things out and get tunnel vision when I wait for a bubbling message to show up or for a "good morning" to appear on my screen. I've read about all of this, but experiencing it for myself adds a whole new dimension to my learning. I think I understand why it's hard for people to explain love and attraction. There's things I catch myself doing and thinking and feeling that I don't understand the reasons behind. It's something I'm noting and saving for later, just in case I come across a study that explains more. Currently, I'm just happy to be happy. Here's to tomorrow.

Sunday, February 24

It's Sunday, and I'm on a five hour car ride home to Guilderland. I've been in contact with him for the majority of the day, which has been nice. Car rides can get boring.

Since tomorrow is when school starts, I have a lot of worries. The big one is: what happens when people know of this new development? I don't know who I'm supposed to tell or if I'm supposed to say anything. I don't want my new relationship to affect any of my friendships negatively, but I also don't want people fawning over me. As the youngest of most of my friends, I get doted on and babied whenever the situation is right. I don't want to just say that I'm growing up and that they shouldn't be happy for me, but I am growing up. As a teenager now, I'm working past being treated like a child, and something like a relationship is so grown that part of me wonders if I'm even ready for it. I assume all my worries are just worries, and it won't matter, but I'll be harboring anxieties until the day passes.

For the rest of my car ride, I'm going to work on my script so I don't use up all of my data, but I'll check back in on Monday!

Monday, February 25

It's Monday, and I attempted to learn how to play Minesweeper today.

We don't really have classes together, but there's a study hall across from choir that we share. I normally sit with my friends, but today I took the initiative to learn how to play Minesweeper while sitting at a new table. I'm used to being the person to take the chances, but it was weird to do it in front of all my peers. Nobody seemed to pay much attention, though. I shouldn't have worried as much as I did, honestly. It wasn't worth it.

When I say I learned how to play Minesweeper, I would say that technically I learned how to get excited over thinking I learned how to play Minesweeper and then how to immediately fail at Minesweeper. He seemed to enjoy my frustration, so I will admit that I lamented more than I normally would. I have no clue if that counts as flirting or not, but it's an interesting idea to toss around. Me, flirting. I remember being told that I was a flirt once because I kept talking to a boy my friend liked, but I also remember crying over being called a flirt. I saw it as shameful and bad and something I didn't want to be. Maybe it's just that I've grown up or that I'm now in a relationship, but part of me is interested in pushing his buttons and making conversation, flirting

or not. I'm still scared, but I'm intrigued. This whole relationship thing has been like what I imagine bungee jumping is. You hype yourself up to get past this fear, but once you jump and are caught safely by the cord, you feel as if you shouldn't have been scared at all. It's interesting.

We'll see what tomorrow brings.

Tuesday, February 26

Today has felt more normal. On BD days I don't see him at all so it felt like I was back to my normal routine. However, it's been different nonetheless. When I got home we chatted and I feel like I'm starting to realize things about him and myself.

I want to talk to Amy at some point (her project is on introversion and extroversion and the spectrum between them) because I notice things within my relationship that fall into introverted and extroverted categories. For instance, I view myself as a big extrovert and that reflects in how I portray myself currently. I take the chances and initiatives to be around him and he accepts it. His version of reciprocation is more introverted, with acceptance and listening instead of blatant compliments and talking. I'm not sure how much of that is just the fact that we're still pretty nervous around each other, but I think the introversion still plays a role.

I wonder what it will be like when we're closer. How much will our dynamic change? From what I already know of him thus far, he's smart and better at talking than he gives himself credit for. I truly enjoy making conversation and learning more about him. I don't know if I'll be able to handle him when he becomes more comfortable with me. I'm used to being in control of social settings, and as an extroverted person, I gain my energy from being around people unlike him. What will happen to me when he takes initiative? I'll be thrown off balance for sure. I also wonder if I'll become clingy. I yearn for interaction and thus I worry about becoming too attached. I think it's something I should worry about later on, but I can't help feeling it now. I'm almost done with the script, which I do want to finish so I can send it in ahead of the deadline.

Until tomorrow!

Wednesday, February 27

I finally turned in my script! It's not something I'm going to link here. I've been asking a lot of him to share his words with my editors and my advisors, so I don't want to take advantage of that trust. Honestly, even though I wrote it, it's just a compilation of things we both said. Even for me, it's slightly embarrassing.

However, that's not all I've been doing! I watched a video by Skye C. Cleary (a Ted Animation thing) all about the philosophy of love. I'll link it [here](#). The take on love changed in philosopher's minds throughout the years. Plato told a story that humans were broken apart from what they once were, and love was finding that jigsaw piece to put the picture together. Other perspectives showed love in different lights. Some said that love was just the human brain putting meaning to procreation, and others said love was meant to satisfy both our physical and psychological desires. It really made me think about how I view love.

Currently, to me, love is still a mystery. I don't understand how or why it works, but it's widespread and a fixation of many. I want to learn more about it, so I guess I agree with

Bertrand Russell's idea of satisfying physical and psychological desires more than most things. It's interesting to contemplate! Since I've mostly been looking at the science of things, I kinda ignored the philosophy aspect to love and attraction. It's really cool! I might want to use some aspects of this production in my own symposium at the end of the year. Until tomorrow, with my wrapup of how February went! I'm excited!

Thursday, February 28

It's the end of February Journals. I can't believe I made it all the way through.

Honestly, it's pretty crazy. Even though I didn't do a whole lot in terms of researching science, I learned a lot about my topic by way of firsthand experience, which I didn't expect at all. I also forced myself to stay attached to writing about everything, which led to me realizing a lot of things about myself and my work process. I want to try this again at some point, but with the end of the year approaching, I doubt I'll have time. I'm glad I came up with this idea, though!

I think for this final journal, I want to address timing.

Timing is key to relationships. Whether that relationship is a friendship, a romantic attraction, a group of colleagues, or a creator to a project, putting in the effort when the time is right is so crucial to ending up with a good product. I'm learning that you can't put in the effort constantly, so picking and choosing your moments is extra important. I try really hard to constantly be on and engaged, but because of human limits, I can't always be working to my fullest extent. I learned that with my script. Although I wanted to be working on it more than I did, I tried my best to dip in and out and stay on track. With my new relationship, we both have busy lives. Putting in the effort when we can shows that we care, but I've had to learn to take care of myself. Since I haven't really been feeling hungry or tired, I've had to tear myself away from conversation to take care of myself even though I don't feel the need to. There's a give and take that occurs in any relationship, and in a good relationship, the timing is synchronized. Symbiotically, each side knows when to give and when to take, when to talk and when to listen.

I'm excited to keep learning.

Here's to March, and a new day.

Friday, March 1

I know I'm done with the daily updates, so I thought I would just write a quick blurb rather than a whole journal!

I had dodgeball for a school fundraiser today and some friends decided to cheer me on! It was really nice. He decided to stay as well which I was very thankful for. Dodgeball as a general thing was a way of putting myself out there and having fun, but the fact that he decided to show up and cheer me on was a way for him to put himself out there as well. I ended up talking to a friend after the game and she said that it's obvious that we really like each other. I found that interesting because he's still very enigmatic and hard to read from my perspective, but I guess that's because I'm in the midst of it. She brought up some really good points that I couldn't deny. She also said that one of the reasons why I might like him as much as I do is because I can't read him. She's right, when I think about it. I love a challenge. Thus this project. It's interesting how things come full circle.

I'll be back on Wednesday!

Wednesday, March 6

I'm going to keep this relatively short because this is a decision I'm still coming to terms with. I think with the amount of time I have left, I won't be able to finish the documentary and get proper amounts of sleep and studying in. I'll compensate in some way, but I am depressed with the thought of abandoning the work I put in and letting down people who were excited for the project. I think, in the end, it's a good lesson to learn. You have to be realistic with your goals and pragmatic when determining what you can accomplish.

I'll be back next Wednesday with something better to talk about.

Wednesday, March 13

I've been watching a lot of TED Talks recently as a way to prepare myself for the Symposium at the end of the year. I don't know if it's helping or hurting me at this point. On one hand, it's good to see all these examples of what to do. On the other hand, I'm insanely nervous because I want to be as good as all these examples. Many people talk about love. [This](#) is a good example. A person I've been watching and reading a lot of is [Helen Fisher](#), because whenever I do research about love and attraction, her name shows up. I'm pretty sure she's in my bibliography for my research paper. I'm honestly really intrigued by every point she brings up.

My favorite Ted Talk, however, is one that has nothing to do with love. It's actually about [procrastination](#), and it sums up all my thoughts about this Symposium and work in general! I'm going to try my best to stay on schedule and not procrastinate with this speech. I really want it to be really good.

My current ideas for Symposium speeches range from talking about media only showing teenagers perfection and how it affected my relationship with EMC and the documentary I was going to make, to my actual experience going from a single Pringle to someone in a relationship studying relationships. I don't know if I want to choose one idea or try to bring them all together, but I've got time to find out!

I'll be talking about my March SDA in the next journal entry! Stay tuned!