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VPA 313

Central Coast Narrative

I grew up in a small farm town named Strathmore about an hour south of Fresno California. With that being said I really do not have any close ties to the central coast, other than a fondness to agriculture and farming. Prior to attending ^{CSUMB (caps)} Csumb I had never visited Monterey County; I did not have any idea of what I could possibly expect when I first committed to Csumb. I have now been here for just about a year and have not yet enjoyed much of what Monterey County has to offer.

When it comes to making my way around the surrounding cities I must confess that I am still very new to the environment and have not yet gotten a grasp on the cities surrounding the campus. In the few experiences that I have had with endeavoring outside of campus I have to admit my number one guide has always been a global positioning satellite (gps). Although I have been to a few tourist destinations like, Cannery row, Salinas, downtown Monterey, Fisherman's Warf, Big Sur and of course the world famous Monterey bay aquarium. The opportunities that I have had to explore the outlying area have been relegated to a short visit due to time constraints as well as financial reasons.

One of the places that most stood out and caught my attention was Big Sur, the wildlife and nature made my experience there a great and enjoyable one. Much of the scenery at Big Sur reminded me of home, this is why I believe that it was even more enjoyable to me. Back home

we have the Sierra Nevada foothills in our backyard and when making your way up the hill one is reminded of nature and the serene beauty the Forrest. There is one thing I was not able to see when I visited the state park at Big Sur, that is the waterfall that some around here that have had the opportunity to visit Big Sur have recommended I should visit. I imagine the fall as the falls I have seen back home in particular the falls in the Yosemite national park.

Monterey and what I call home are very different but at the same time are very similar. I say this because they both have a common denominator, which is farming/agriculture. Although they both thrive off of agriculture they are very different in the types of agriculture. Back in the San Joaquin Valley the number source of income are dairy farms, in the Salinas valley on the other hand it seems like the number one crop are vegetables. We also have tons of tree fruit, cotton and corn and with this comes a lot of wildlife which makes It way down from the foothills which are a 5 min drive away.

The number one thing that differentiates Monterey from my home has to be the proximity to the ocean, back home we consider it a privilege to be able to take a vacation out to the coast, as a matter of fact I know many people who have never been the beach in their entire lives. As far as calling the Central Coast home I have not yet made that transition, I will always consider the San Joaquin valley home for many reasons including my family and my childhood memories. I hold this to be true because I am not familiar with this environment, for example to this day I am still not able to sit through and watch a news report other than a news report from back home. Some may see this as odd but for some peculiar reason I'm not sure if I simply have no interest in the news from this area or what it is. Do not get me wrong Monterey County is a beautiful place to live but I feel like my ties are back in the Central Valley.

Seraphin Thoughtful, well written narrative