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College Writing I
Journal Entry
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I feel as though I have a lot of stories in my life that are highlighted as important. I want to believe that experiences that I have went through and the ones to come are life lessons and helps guide me in making decisions and choices that lead me towards the higher good and strengthens my spiritual walk. I think something significant that has happened in my life is going back to the year 2012-13 when my parents sent me to a Christian boarding school or reprimanding me for, "running away" (which I did not come home for at-least 24 hours) and I understand that is big scare for any adult/guardian or someone in charge of a child underage. I ran away with someone at the age of 14, my "First Love" as I would call her and I went on a little adventure in NYC from the Bronx to 42nd Street Time Square just because I wanted to spend time with her, this lead to me not communicating with my parents who did not understand that I was interested in females and this being the first female I was in a relationship with, that I was in a fantasy world for sure. After my bubble was popped and a traumatic event occurred for the both of us it brought me back home to my parents where detectives were at my home and my parents were ready to release medical records because they perceived the worst-case scenario. As I am trailing off in this entry right now, I will draw my attention back to the center of where I was sent, "Freedom Village USA" where there was no television access, no phone access, skirts, dresses, non-tight clothing, etc., was enforced as well as boys and girls would not be in the same facility or interact with each other. The punishment system was not ideal either, as well as the living conditions, and the verbal abuse as well as physical abuse that took place, it was a cult. I ended up leaving the program after the 12-month commitment, but I left on my 11th month because September would be the start of a new school year. I can say the only important thing that experience allowed me to grasp was my foundation and relationship with God and what journey/path I was taking, other than that it was forced and everything we did had to be followed by the rules or we were not allowed certain privileges. I was sent several hours away in Lakemont, New York where winter was the coldest, and the summer was the hottest, the spring was manageable. Recently a few years ago I found out that the establishment got shut down (thank God) because Pastor Fletcher Brothers and his son was caught in a lot of fraudulent crimes as well as the abuse, I mentioned both to boys and girls by staff which came to light. He also would exploit all the boys and girls as charity cases on his radio station and would make us tell our story of why we were sent there, for people to feel bad and, "adopt" us to send us clothing, money, etc. I was not aware at the time why the people of Watkins Glen would wait in front of the Church we would all attend on Sundays and Wednesdays in a bus/van that would be anti-Pastor Brothers until all the allegations and various articles that have spread about the establishment and Pastor Brothers. I