

PART 2 (for homework or the second class)

Step 1: The students will imagine a landscape that represents or reminds them of how they feel about themselves or their lives. It could be a city, a forest, a factory, a room, an agricultural field, a beach, daytime or at night, and it could be a real or imaginary place...close your eyes and imagine this place, then make another list of objects and sensations in the scene. Colors, smells, sounds, sensations (like wind, heat, cold), trying to focus on concrete objects. Don't try to describe or define the place, just make another list of these elements.

desk

sounds:

typing

writing

rain

Color:

feeling:

distant

confused

hopeful

joy

Step 2: Use this list to write a description of the landscape. This can be part of the "letter to my future self" to explain and evoke how students feel about their lives and situations now. In a way it can serve as a kind of picture or snapshot of the present, to remind them in the future of their thoughts and feelings now.

It's 30 minutes past 3 a.m in June. I believe it's the best time to think about my life so far. Since the outbreak of COVID in TW this year, I have been living in the living room for more than a month, just like last year. It makes me feel stranded and tired. Usually, this is the place where literally all the things take place, including online classes, writing hw, and struggling for Fourier and probability. To be honest, I don't hate it that much, because all I need at this moment is me focusing on acquiring the math topics I left behind, and this is the perfect place to do it unbothered. Connecting to the analogy of the telescope in the previous exercise. I still get the sense of exploration with what I am doing for now, just not with a physical object. With that being said, it's still a difficult "language" to communicate in math, sometimes you are discouraged.

Back to the desk The best memory I have is listening to Chopin op.55 No1 (or Rain and You from HP season 2) while raining. It gave me a sense of distance, away from the normal routine, with fewer sounds from neighbors, and dimmer lights. The rain and music set the scene for indulging in all the "What if", and "should I" questions, or stepping back and enjoying the present.

The most important thing I learn so far is that what you do as a habit will set the tone for what you can achieve. I don't know why I would keep a hollow hope for "one-shot" success at a big-time in the past when in real life things take me lots of effort. Therefore, I now focus on what I can do and admit and accept those I can not do at the moment.

The other is that after the internship and the accident, I can finally let go of the guilt I had for a long time for the concession to study at a place I had not even visited once in high school. It was a bad choice, but it should not be the excuse for your life. Take the challenge in life, and develop the skillset/mindset you need for the goal you hope for. Commit yourself whenever possible.

Step 3: After the description of the landscape is finished, write one more paragraph to describe how they hope or expect it to change. Do they want to add structures or technology to it? Do they want it to include other people? Do they want to build a wall around it to keep it exactly the same? Do they want to plant trees or flowers, add windows, and remove some of the elements it contains? This is a way to express hopes for the future and remind the future self of what they wanted, hoped for, or dreamed of at this point in their lives.

I suppose that little will change if I go down this path of researching, but I hope that when the situation gets better, the range of life can expand to some restaurants, bookstores, and bars. Spend more time with friends and research buddies in person. Conversation through a screen has nothing to compare with seeing each other face to face. I want to argue math before a blackboard, I want to chat with friends while having a meal. Those little things often are the cure to the issue I thought were serious. . I will also hope that I get a better pen(metaphorically), the pen that will make me write in my style, write in a vibrant but elegant manner. To be more specific, I always kinda fell struggling to stick to one set of thinking. The awkwardness goes switching between math, and engineering makes it difficult to adapt. I don't know, maybe it just takes time to get used to it.

After the conversation with Prof. Ku, I was encouraged to think about how my choice could cast an influence on the societies. Well, I have been thinking about spreading knowledge, I believe the true equipment for the kids growing is to have the needed skill to think, write, and learn. If I really got good at doing academics, maybe setting up a talent module for inspired high school students will be great. In my experience, it was the exchange program where I first got my hands on machine learning, and I think it's more useful to show how can we use math than saying a bunch of reasons. Beyond the education system, I don't have any thoughts. I am currently worried about the economic divide, and I believe changing it will require the effort to contain capitalism. How can you stop entities from giving up their advantage to self-replicate and grow in the competition?