**Life stories reflection – Part two**

Looking back at my life story reflections, I can see which one had shaped my learning and the way I learned. For my portfolio, I would use the first article I wrote, as it came from a place with very little support and reminds me that I got myself to where I am today. The major difference between my two life stories is that one focuses on the past and how I overcame it, and the other focuses on the present and the future, finding that everyone was in the same position as me. A similarity is how I feel about my learning, considering I was anxious in both stories but determined to carry on and do the best I could.

I definitely see these stories as being told to others as opposed to being told to myself because I know how I felt and I know what had happened for me to be in the position I am now, yet others don’t know how I got there or what had gone on for me to be so focused. They are both fleeting moments within my past and present that I felt helped shape me into who I am today, especially with the belief I wouldn’t be able to do it or that I actually can. One limitation I would note on the portfolio about these stories is that I failed to mention the support I received from my family, especially my mum regarding encouragement and reassurance when I couldn’t receive it from my school.

I believe that my first story had a degree of continuation because it was a conversation between myself and a member of the school. It was continuous as I had to see them a lot regarding university and around the school, as well as the conversation taking place in school. In contrast, the second story has more ‘zigzags’ as the nerves I felt in class soon left, and I realised that the other students were in the exact same situation as me. We all had a new teacher, a new subject and new classmates that didn’t know us.

I prefer my first story to the second as the moment for me was more profound. If I hadn’t of gone to the university I wanted to and continued the path I was on, I would not have met all the people I have or even ventured to be an exchange student in Canada for a year. That moment defined what I would be doing in the future and even gave me some self confidence in my academic achievements. The second story is also certainly profound as I learnt about new cultures and different historical perspectives, but perhaps not as influential as being told I couldn’t do something.