Integrative Narrative

When I began my college education, I was undecided on what career to choose. During the first two years at Hartnell College I decided I wanted to become a teacher. I knew I wanted to teach, but was unsure on what subject. While taking Spanish courses as a sophomore, one of my professors inspired me to become a Spanish teacher. To my fortune, I will be able to integrate two things that I feel passionate about: teaching and Spanish language. As a junior I transferred to CSU Monterey Bay, where I continued to study Spanish. I learned that I had to choose an emphasis, so I decided to choose literature and culture. Dr. MaríaZielina and Dr. Rafael Gómez were the professors that motivated me to emphasize in literature and culture.

As a student of World Languages and Cultures, I have learned many important things. Not only did my knowledge as a student grow, but also as a person. In the many different classes I have taken, I have learned about history and cultures of Latin America. Through literary novels, I was able to get a taste of what was going on during the time the novel was written. Not only was I able to enjoy the novels, but also learn historical facts from them. For example, in *Cienaños de soledad,* I learned about the Spanish conquest, the impact that the United States has on Latin America, and the situation of Colombia. In the culture classes, my knowledge about cultures in Latin America was expanded. By reading texts, looking at visuals, and doing research, I became more aware of how Latin America has evolved throughout the years of struggle.

I am privileged to have learned so many things during the two years I have been here. Although I have acquired new insights, I still want to work on improving some areas. Since I only focused on literature and culture, did not take many courses in grammar; I would like to better my grammar. I would like to become a teacher, so I need to expand my knowledge on grammar. It was a pleasure to learn about Latin America, but unfortunately I did not have enough time to study anything in regards to Spain. As of now, I feel knowledgeable about Latin America, but not Spain; definitely, that is something I would like to study about.