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Describe the **plot** of the story you want to tell. It should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Be as specific as possible here – you can use it later when putting your draft together! This should reveal the conflict, climax, and resolution (in other words, what happens).

One topic I have in mind is when I went to Stockholm, Sweden for one month three years ago. When I first found out I got accepted I was ecstatic I was excited, I was going with great friends and people I wanted to be around. When we first got there we didn't go straight to our dorms. We and my delegate mate Wesley went to our home stay and stayed with a Swesish family for one weekend and toured the city. The beginning started that mid june afternoon. It was sunny and warm, there were good vibes and I was on my way to my delegate leader Emily's house to say one last goodbye to our families then we were on our way. After that we drove to JFK international airport and took a nice eight and a half hour plane ride to Stockholm. As soon as we arrived in Stockholm we didn't immediately go to the campsite and my friend wesley went to our first of two homestays and the girls did the same. Our leader Emily went to the camp site probably to meet the other leaders and staff and do leader stuff. The homestay was for one weekend and we got to relax and tour and learn about the city more. It was very fun and a good learning experience about Swedish culture. That was the beginning. Now the middle was when I was actually at camp doing activities and making memories. After about half way through camp I did another homestay except I wasn't with my friend Wesley. I was with three other boys at our other homestays house. Now the saddest part, the end, camp was winding down. We were coming up on the last couple of days. One of those days I remember they took us to a part of the campsite that we were not allowed in, once we got there we were in a dark room there was a projector and we got to see all the pictures of use taken over the course of those three weeks. It was very memorable. One of the other last couple of days was when we wrote messages to each other that we would keep forever. And arguably the saddest night was the night before camp was over and we said our goodbyes around the campfire and cried in each other's arms. The next day everyone still very sad said more goodbyes and shed more tears as we all got on a bus and drove to the airport and I said some of the hardest goodbyes I ever had to make. Then we were of to the plane and back to USA,

The End.

Besides you (obviously), who else will be in the story? How will you describe them? How will you describe yourself?

Other people that will be in the story are my delegate mates as we were representing the USA. Although to answer your questions the other people would be my delegate leader, her name is Emily and my delegate mates Lana, Quinn and Wesley. In addition to that there were around 13 other countries there and exactly 74 people total there.

How will your story be about the theme of **identity and belonging**? What will you (as the author and narrator) realize about yourself or your world in this story? (In other words, what will be the **reflective moment**?) My story will be about the theme of identity and belonging because on that trip we were surrounded by 2 boys and 2 girls from 13 different countries and we all came together and got to know each other and play games with each other even though we were all from different races, ethnites, etc. there's even a song we have to go with us coming to I won't say the whole song but some of it goes 'hear in this village you may see children living happily, different race and different land here we come to understand one another's point of view.' That's just some of the song and I think that threw us holding hands and singing that song everyday morning and night we definitely built community amongst each other and really grew to care and love each other even if it was only for three weeks we all cried at the end and showed our love and affection for each other and didn't want leave that was part of the way we had built identity among each other.

How will you describe the culture you're writing about to an *outsider* audience? How will you help them understand the culture, assuming it is unfamiliar to them?

What are some storytelling techniques you plan to use in your memoir vignette? (For example, Trevor Noah uses humor, pacing, and dialogue frequently in his stories.)

Stuck on a topic and can't decide what to write? Use these prompts to get your brainstorm going:

- Make a list of the different cultures you feel apply to your identity.
- Describe a group you belong to. What characteristics distinguish this group, and what does it mean to belong to this group?
- Write about a time you experienced a miscommunication or misunderstanding because of a cultural difference.
- Write about your name: the story behind it, its meaning or significance, how it has impacted you in different ways.
- What is an experience you have had where you have been an insider or an outsider? How did it feel? What were the advantages and disadvantages of this position?
- What is your relationship to faith and/or a religious institution? How has it impacted your perspective or relationships?

*All of these are based on what Trevor Noah wrote about in *Born A Crime*. If you're still stuck, go back through your annotations to see what stood out to you while you were reading. From there, you can write your own prompts!