History Project Reflection

 For my critical reflection I created five scrapbook pages that reflect my growing up years. I put these pages into five categories: Evelyn Dickson Elementary, rural Vanderhoof, homeschool, BC Children’s Hospital, and my family. All these categories have links to the place that I grew up in and the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area.

 I went to a small Elementary school that held conservative backcountry values that I learned. Some of these included not addressing mental health issues and rigid standpoints on sexuality and gender. If I had not lived where I did I may have developed a more open mindset earlier in life. My growing up rural page highlights the privileges that I have had due to where I lived. I got to learn so many skills that I had easy access to like shooting, driving, archery, horse riding, and raising animals.

 I was given the opportunity to be homeschooled when I was struggling but if I had not lived in a rural community I may not have needed that as I could have had better access to trained mental health support and an option to attend a different public school. This ties into my next page which shows my trip to Vancouver Children’s hospital. I had to fight and advocate to get better help and I almost lost my life due to lack of support available. The counselors' waiting lists were so long and there were no psychiatrists. In a more populated area I would not have needed to fight as hard as I did as a teenager.

Lastly my family is an amazing support and their home is peaceful and safe with the space to try new things and make mistakes and I know I am lucky to have that as not everyone does. Growing up in Vanderhoof made me a different person then I would have been if I had grown up in a city. I received many unique opportunities but I struggled with lack of access to medical support and old fashioned values.

 As a future teacher I plan to make my space a welcoming place for students of all walks of life. I want to give my kids experiences like what I had growing up and show them important things about the outdoors and the world. I want to remember that each of my students goes home to a different set of values and that they are learning what they believe in and I hope that I can show them that they have a safe place to be no matter what. Brookfeilds says,

 “Our own experiences as learners provide important clues to the kinds of classroom dynamics that hinder or further the ability to learn” (Brookfeild 2017).

 Due to my own experiences I want to be an advocate for my students' health and safety even if that means having hard conversations with parents. I want my students to see that there is a huge world out there and that no matter where they come from we are all here equally in search of knowledge.

Brookfield, Stephen D.. Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher, John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2017. ProQuest Ebook Central, http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/trulibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4790372