Reflections.

What was the experience?

Was your experience different than others? (Difference between literacy narrative and summary).

What did you learn about yourself as a learner/writer when you compare your experience writing these 2 papers?

What did you learn that you can bring into other written work?

I found it easier to write about my cultural identity; whereas, I found it slightly difficult to write my summary. Firstly, because it is a topic that I am strongly passionate about, I feel words almost just appeared on my computer effortlessly. Furthermore, my cultural identity is something I constantly debate with myself about, and I feel the position my life is currently in truly required me to put my thoughts on paper.

As for my experience writing my response to The Shawl, I had a very clear topic in mind, but I mostly found myself struggling to decompose all the big ideas I had in my head into their smaller individual parts. By reading my work while putting myself outside my shoes, I felt that I was sometimes too general, giving away the theses of my work too quickly and assuming the reader understands my reasoning with little justification. I also had a few other points and threads I wanted to treat, but I found no quick and clear way of connecting them to my overarching thesis without it feeling like a huge tangent. I would have liked to have time to work on it some more.

Writing my cultural identity narrative was certainly different than other academic settings in which I’ve written with a much less personal focus. I enjoyed the freedom to write about virtually anything and how that became something that was organically mine rather than an essay with a goal. As for my summary, I’ve never had to decompose a piece of English literature and examine it formally in school, so it was a new experience. I really enjoyed reading and thinking about *The Shawl*; I think it is a very dense and rich book with a lot of underlying thoughts and ideas in such a small wordcount, which makes it extremely worth a read and whatever time one invests in thinking of what is on paper.

Although I already had an idea of this, it was stressed further that my structuring of sentences needed some working. I’ve wanted to work on my punctuation to find better ways to structure sentences to convey my message efficiently to readers. I feel I’ve done well in this context, but I feel that I need to do better on not spilling the beans all in one go by building more evidence for whatever thesis I have, which will allow my work to feel more robust and in-depth.

