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Reflection Paper #2
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The past few weeks in class has been an emotional roller coaster. Any emotion or feeling that would normally be endured over the span of months, I've experienced within the span of a few weeks. Excitement, sadness, wonder, happiness, courage, curiosity, empathy and anxiety are only a few of what I've felt since the course began. I never thought I'd say it, but this is the first time I can say that I enjoy a class and am actually learning not only academic knowledge, but knowledge that I can apply to myself as well.

Having been presented the seven different ways to obtain knowledge, I've noticed that it seems rather unconventional because the Anishinaabe pedagogy is much different than the Modern Western pedagogy that I'm accustomed to. So often do I find myself forgetting what I've learnt in the past year because of the way the information has been given to me. In my opinion, Modern Western pedagogy, when it comes to teaching language, is very technical and grammar-based. For example, when learning French, students are taught correct pronunciation, vocabulary, how to conjugate verbs and presented with all these rules and exceptions that need to be memorized without question. This method of teaching is technical and doesn't allow students to develop their own understanding of the language. However, the Anishinaabe pedagogy allows for students to learn on their own and by means of experience and transferring of knowledge. I'd like to think that the knowledge acquired through this pedagogy reflects the students well and enables them to formulate their own understanding of the language.

Putting the Anishinaabe pedagogy into practice really opened up my eyes and allowed me to experience a complete different method of getting knowledge. The activity not only taught me

something about myself, but it also taught me something about each and every person in the class. In the moment of deciding what it was that I was willing to sacrifice, what I had, what I needed, and what I needed to do to move forward, I learned something about myself; something that I thought I had suppressed and didn't realize that was bothering me. And of course, in turn, I learnt my classmates deepest thoughts, something I'm sure none of them realized or even allowed strangers to know.

This class has been different with respect to how my other classes are taught. Yes, this is a university class and we're being given historical information and different methodologies to know and understand. But the difference is that we get to put these methodologies into practice and develop our own understanding of the Anishinaabe culture and language. Most courses, if not all, base the grading scheme on theories, facts and information that we're expected to regurgitate on tests and essays. That's why I'm so glad this course grades students on applying the knowledge by means of non-conventional evaluations.