Layperson Summary

As I entered UNC Charlotte and left home for the first time I quickly learned that I had very little experience in sharing my person with others. Within my undergraduate career I have slowly begun to share myself through my beliefs, emotions, talents, and knowledge. After having done this I am left with the question, “Have I grown as a result of this sharing?” It is my goal to answer this question through use of the social identity theory as a framework of study.

The social identity theory relates to human change through interaction. It states that a person’s sense of self is determined by the groups in which they are a member. I form my identity through belonging to a family as a son and brother, a classroom as a teacher, and a relationship as a boyfriend. By being a part of these groups, along with several others, the social identity theory states that I have been changed. I intend to reflect on my membership in these groups and determine if this change was for the better.

For my project I have gathered six different artifacts which represent specific groups to which I belong. While they all come from diverse origins, each plays an integral role in the shaping of my identity. While my artifacts are connected to both positive and negative experiences I believe that everyone is crucial discuss. The social identity theory does not discriminate to being simply about positive instances, therefore I must make note of the hardships I experienced in the last four years. My identity is the product of many interactions which I have held in my undergraduate experience, now all that is left is to determine if this product is one of growth or diminishment.