What Did you Learn about...

History

In general, I began to understand that people were slaves. Reading essays about Israel Bennion, past polygamist wives, Brigham Young’s interactions with others, and material on the Mountain Meadows Massacre informed me about people’s thoughts, words, and actions. Israel and others like him strongly believed in the correlation between faith and crop. Polygamist wives struggled with their relationships. Esther Ann and her younger sister—wife felt detached and rejected from society. Now could have foreseen their likes turning out the way it did. Sharing a husband, struggling to support children in a split relationship—being turned out of a house due to another woman’s jealousy. Hundreds become responsible for a plethora of people. They didn’t typically have one single place to stay and they struggled to keep tensions low. Today, people don’t understand polygamy. In Chad ward’s book, Canaries on the Rim, he talks about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ are embarrassed about their past. Riley Nelson asked me what I thought about polygamy. "It’s difficult to understand."

Riley responded with "I don’t like it."

Before INNIE, I used to just try and ignore it. I suppose I used to do the same. People in our group and many other teenagers often say “I’m glad we know better now.”
But what if in 100 years our great-grandchildren look back on our lives with a frown and say the same thing?

Over INIWUT I've come to better understand—not only what happened across Utah, but why it happened. People strive for ideals, and often fall short. It still happens today. There are beautiful attributes that could have come—could have been.

Some cases might have come from practicing polygamy. It could have been about sacrifice, selflessness, and trust. An expansion of love and patience—a test of faith.

In the Mountain Meadow massacre, people were scared, angry, hoping to protect their people.

In the hearts of mortal men: things become messy; we make mistakes. We fall short or on our good ideals.

In many ways we're no different than the past. Everyone has to walk the road that requires improvisation and choices.

It's important to understand that we, like those before us are fallible beings.

I am learning about tolerance and forgiveness and the importance of atonement.
Biology

I like plants. Everything in this world is so intricate and unique.

We live in a complex world.

I've become more aware of the material things I possess - including food.

I think I live like a king. I pop something in the microwave and "Wallaah!" food. Clothes and shoes are basically handed to me.

I didn't nourish any seeds or spin any fibers.

Everything I posses comes from somewhere from something.

The Wildflower Flour is one of my favorites now. Before I used I hadn't noticed it on the front of my cereal box. Before I used I hadn't known it made litilly or that its stems were silky smooth. And yeah - it's edible.

I want to be more aware of what surrounds me and come to better understand this complex world with complex ecosystems.
Writing

I'm learning to be more honest with myself. It's been brought to my attention that I make things too dramatic, flowery and abstract. I want to ground myself in facts so that I can have a foundation to grow off of.

It's important to give oneself permission...

If I don't know where I am—how can I get anywhere or fix what needs to be fixed or addressed—things that need to be addressed.

Growth requires honesty— and humility—to give it.

Writing helps one to work through thoughts and to identify patterns. It's a tool for reflection—a different kind of mirror.
Recreation Management

The wilderness provides a new canvas for identity.
Strip away possessions, familiarity, friend groups, social structure and what is best?
You see others, including yourself, more completely.
You also become more aware of your limits but your confidence levels to grow. Confidence grows because you accomplishments are raw.

Battles are fought on the rock or pushing yourself through water. Overcoming fear, comforting others.
You have to face what’s inside of you to get through the obstacle what you gain remaining with you.

We can bring people back to these places so that they can enhance your connection with the earth, with themselves and with a group of people.
Recreation as therapy.
What did you learn about yourself / others / God?

Others
I can connect with all sorts of people.
I think I tend to be standoffish.
I don't always embrace what makes people unique. When I'm more open
and tolerant of differences
I make connections that can last me a
life time and I grow to appreciate
those close around me.

Myself
I've been pretty stubborn in the way I
think, I have ideals of "shoulds"
and "should-nots" but I can
push against those. It's okay to re-write the way I think.

God:
Holy goodness he's patient,
and the atonement ... How much --
thinking about the intensity
of the atonement after watching
the Salt of the Earth, stretched
my mind.

This world has so much. God created
all of this for us...