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Section Introduction: Moments

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MOMENTS

The past is always with us. It is a relic of time that we never seem to forget as we traverse through the journey of life. In any situation we battle, our decisions and actions affect the future. The past can sometimes come to us through memories, or appear as an outcome—or a consequence—of our actions.

However, the past does not necessarily determine the future. The past is consequential—but not final. What determines the future are the outlooks and stances we hold. What determines the future are the changes we choose to make as a result of one thing, hoping that the outcome of the next appears to be more substantial. The pieces in this section showcase how different authors respond to the past on personal, political, and social levels.

In “Taming My Rage,” William Cross reflects on his memories as a veteran, contending with two emotions—love and rage. He demonstrates the deep emotions he feels as he remembers friends he lost in the war. For him, the past is still anchored in the present, as he holds the memories of those who have emotionally impacted him. In “The Disney Effect,” Adam Dvorak offers a critique of Disney and the company’s failure to free the past and make culture available to all. Finally, in “Climate Compassion,” Maizy Ludden helps us see the environmental consequences of our past actions. She persuasively argues that we need to be conscious of how our decisions and actions affect the planet we call home.

In essence, the past affects the future. Experiencing the effects of past memories and the results of certain actions allow us to gain perspective on the way we act today. It is ultimately up to humanity to take a stance and use the past to our benefit.

—Camila Wanderley Mendonça, Ali Merrill, and Jamie Steinberg





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