Thalita Valerio

ELI 31
Rosie Speck
Spring 2014
My name is Thalita Valerio.
I’m 20 years old.
I’m from Brazil.
I informed my friends that I’m going to America.

They all supported me.
The last day in my house,

all my friends were with me all day.
Week 1

This is my first picture in America.

My first week here was so cold. Snow was everywhere.

It was very cold but I liked the landscape.
Week 1

This is a video of me and my Brazilian friend Camila running because the snow was so cold.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0CIEQCe2iU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0CIEQCe2iU&feature=youtu.be)
Week 2

In the second week I started my classes and basketball practice. I was worried how it would be because I could not speak English.
Week 3

In my third week I made new friends and knew a little bit of English to chat with people.
Week 4

This week was the first time I was at the mall in Joplin. We also went to McDonalds.

I did not walk the whole mall, but I think it is small compared to the malls in Brazil. In Brazil, the malls close at 11:00 p.m. so I was surprised that the Joplin mall closed so early and I did not have time to finish my shopping.

The McDonalds food tasted the same as in Brazil but here you can get free refills.
This week I posted on Facebook that it was one month since I came to America. I told everyone about what had happened to me in Brazil about eight years ago. Eight years ago in a church God used one person to tell me that I would be coming to the U.S. to study and play basketball and after eight years here I am.

God be praised!!
Week 6

This is the Valentine's Day
I have fun with my friends.
This week is my birthday. My friends gave me a surprise party.

For the first time I feel bad because I miss my family, but in seconds I’m so happy because of this surprise.
Week 8:

I had study hall in the hotel because the basketball team was travelling to a game.
Week 9

I went to an American wedding. The main difference between the American wedding and Brazilian wedding is the food.

The Brazilian food is better!!
Week 10: Spring Break

I did not do anything for Spring Break. I just sunbathed with my Brazilian friends here at Crowder. It was boring and I wished I could go to a water park instead.
All moments since January 3-March 17
Week 11
Exploring Joplin at the Joplin Historic Museum in my ELI 31 class.

I really liked to see the florescent rocks in the museum because they were natural.

The old pictures in the museum reminded me that life before was difficult for everyone in the world. People worked so hard but now life is better.

I feel happy because I saw an old picture of my coach in the museum and I saw that she was a good basketball player.
I respect Carver’s life because he represented black people and he did things that racist people did not think that black people could do.

It was a cold day and we had to walk outside around the pond. I did not like this.
Week 13

Visit to Middle School.
I feel good because I have good presentation and conversation with a middle school student.
Visit to Neosho Fish Hatchery Field Trip. I see different kinds fish and after trip we eat lunch. I have fun!!
Week 15

I watched a baseball game with my teammates. I didn’t watch all of the game because it’s a long game and I have no patience.
Week 16

I went to coach’s family house on Easter and I have fun because after Easter dinner we had an Easter egg hunt...the first one ever for me.

This week I take my ELI placement test and I have good test result and will graduate to ELI 33.
Week 17

On Sunday we heard a tornado siren and we had to go to the shelter in Davidson Hall. I feel worried and scared because in Brazil we don’t have tornados but it was alright and then we could go back to our dorms. Thank God!
Conclusion

When I arrived I did not know and could not communicate very well. I just understand some basic things to be able to get along and communicate with my new American friends and start my new path in another country and meet people. I never imagined this would happen to me.

Today thank GOD I am here 4 months and am established. I can communicate and I can better understand my college friends. In this short time here I already gotten to know many of the city of Neosho and meet some historical figures of the city and some museums. My learning began in ELI 31 and now today I am in ELI 33.

Now begins my season as a player of the Crowder basketball team and I feel very happy and grateful for the people who helped me and still helping me on my new path through life in another country and feeling glad all receiving me very well here.

I hope to continue to know new good people and work hard for my team and my studies.
Finish!!!