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If you have run into Samantha, Jack, Nelson, Betsy, Luke, Julian, or Amanda around town over the past month, you have probably heard about their life-changing experiences in France, Spain, and the American Southwest. Each student shared reflections on their term abroad in recent blog posts on Proctor's website, and we wanted to share them with the local community as well. Be sure to follow the adventures of Andover's Ryan Methven '19 and Sam Royal '18 this spring on Mountain Classroom!

Betsy Abrahamson '18 - European Art Classroom

While reflecting back on our term in Aix, it is bewildering to see how far I've come since first arriving. I've grown in many ways, subtle or otherwise, that has helped me grow as not only an individual but a global citizen. My comfort zone has been stretched, my mind opened, and my strengths and weaknesses illuminated. I have heard, seen, tasted, and smelled some of the most extraordinary things the earth has to offer and for that I am eternally grateful. Seeing as this is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity, I have tried to embrace the uncertainty and live completely in the moment. Euro is a unique beast that has evolved through years of tinkering due to Dave and Jen's constant efforts.

I couldn't imagine leaving Proctor with better memories than those that I've made here. On that note, I would like to thank the individuals who adventured with me this term. As the grandfather of Impressionism, Pissarro, once said, "Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing." We've laughed until we can't breathe, meandered through cobblestoned streets in Florence, and shared the weight of groceries being hauled uphill. I cannot help but consider myself a truly fortunate individual, despite pondering where all this time has disappeared

to. Something about the Provençal sun warps time so it seems like I arrived in the airport yesterday but also five years ago. Yet, now we are headed back to reality and to our family and friends (and my dog!). How incredibly beautiful.

Amanda Hinds '19 - Mountain Classroom

Full circle is, in essence, our exam week. We spend 4 days in one place (a rarity in itself) traversing from the library to our campsite to town and around and around and around. Our exams aren't tests, exactly - just a single notebook, about a foot tall and 9 inches wide, filled with illustrations, writing, and sometimes coffee stains, that attempt to sum up our experience on Mountain Classroom. There are a series of prompts for each of our subjects: Community Living, English, Social Studies, Science, and Expedition Skills. There are no computers, and no spell-check. We just write pages and pages, hunched over that black Mountain Book for hours each day. At the same time, we must plan our Final Expedition (if that's applicable - we can only do this if we make it to Final Phase.)

We spent our Full Circle in Idyllwild, California. It's way up on a mountain, and it's quaint - eclectic houses all around a small town with no Walmart or Starbucks - just local small businesses selling everything from coffee to toys to shoes to jerky. We arrived there after leaving sunny, beautiful San Diego. Our first night, it snowed. The next morning we went on a hike to Alex's favorite view point in the world. The base of Suicide Rock, looking out at Tahquitz. We sat there for a long time, talking, thinking, and listening. Eventually, Alex and Kate told us we had made Final Phase. So the work began.

There were so many options. We could go basically anywhere in a 5 hour drive radius, and California has beautiful trails over nearly every inch. We eventuring

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