

## Contemplating Our Lives

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How would you adjust if everything familiar to you changed? Many of us can recall a time when a challenge forced us to contemplate change, and/or take risks. The essays in this section focus on people who have taken risks, people who have inspired change in others, and people who have had to change themselves. For instance, Jennifer Balidio describes the challenges she faces while writing, Kris Schobert examines the challenges he faced growing up with Alopecia Areata, and Eileen Wu challenges Cal Poly's current dining plan. As you read, contemplate the challenges that have shaped you into the individual you are today.



The above photograph, titled, *two roads diverged yadda yadda country stix*, presents viewers with two roads, though we often have more than two options to consider at any given moment in our lives. Sometimes choosing between two options can prove to be challenging, however. Imagine yourself at this intersection with no map, GPS, or cell phone. Would you stay and wait for someone to show you the way, or would you take a risk by finding your own way?



If you could interact with the scene depicted above, what would you do? Would you use the swing or would that feel like trespassing? Why do you think the author titled the image “Serene Sunset in the Field”? What makes this image “serene”?