CALIBRATION DOCUMENT
BC 1.1 A Very Lucky Project

Listening to the audio about how we look at simple situations and fall prey to superstition or “magical thinking” as they explain it in the audio. They mainly described two main themes about how/why we do this. This first theme was the “blade of grass” way of thinking. They explained this by using the example that when a golf ball was hit it landed on a single blade of grass, and that particular blade of grass was so excited/shocked that out of all blades of grass the golf ball landed on that one. But in reality, the golf ball was destined to land on a blade of grass no matter what, so there was a 100% chance of it happening. The second theme discussed in the audio is the “background” way of thinking. This just basically means that sometimes people will leave out the details in a story that don’t necessarily “confirm the coincidence” and only tell the parts of the story that support it.

When thinking about something that has happened to me that seemed very unusual, only one particular incident came to mind. My mom told me that when my grandma was pregnant with her, at the age of 27, her great grandmother passed away. Then when my mom was pregnant with me, also at the age of 27, my great grandmother passed away. This story has stuck with me over the years because I’ve always thought just how odd it was that both of our great grandmothers passed away during the same period in our lives.

After listening to the audio and relating it back to my situation I realize that yes, it may be strange when talking about the timing of what happened, but other than that there’s nothing really that odd about it. I realize that over the years I’ve only kept in mind the details of the story that are the exact same, such as the age of our mothers, and the time frame of when out great grandmothers passed away. But I realize that I didn’t pay much attention to the details that didn’t exactly match up in each story. For example, my mother’s great grandmother wasn’t related to her by blood, but only by marriage. This type of thinking relates back to the “background” theme talked about in the video, where certain details are left out of the story if they don’t necessarily support the confirmatory information.