

Overview Reflection

I was very excited to improve my skills coming into this class. Coming into WP1, I felt a bit intimidated, like I didn't know exactly where to start because I didn't know what to expect. I learned I was better at writing and reading from an early age, but there's a very big stereotype that the first year of university is so much harder than senior year of high school. I'm not so sure why I was so worried when I was literally an A-B student with a 3.7 GPA. Anyway, I was a bit reassured when I saw the rubric for WP1 and it looked like a pretty easy assignment, one where I could even have a friend involved to help ease my nerves. WP1 was my first ever introduction to incorporating multimodal media. For this reason, I decided to do my project about starting high school as a little baby freshman. Not only was it really the only thing I could think about bringing up, but I knew it was also something I could easily talk about with someone else. That's how I immediately came up with the idea to do a YouTube video, vlog style. I've never done anything like that either, so it was a good introduction on how to brainstorm, script, record, upload and share a YouTube video. Thankfully, I didn't have to edit it, so it wasn't too tricky to navigate. Not only did I learn how to do things like upload media onto YouTube, but WP1 also taught me that university isn't as scary as it seemed.

For WP2, it was quite different. Not only did I not have someone I know to ease my nerves, but the assignment was a group assignment. It was actually my first ever group project here at NIU. Previously, I have never been a fan of group work. I've always felt like others cared less about their grades than I do, and thus, bring my grade down with it. So I always tried my best to steer away from it. To not risk my grade. But that shallow thinking never led me to realize how detrimental being able to work in a group is, till I got here to NIU. My group for WP2 was actually a very good introduction to working in a group. I felt they all cared the same amount as me about their grade for this project, and we got the A+ to show for it. This project also taught me how to communicate and collaborate with others. To start with the project, we all came in with our own different ideas from different views of what post to use. Alex showed a really cool and meaningful edit about racing, Kamaya showed a post of a verse from the bible, Jayce showed another powerful edit, and I showed everyone something a bit more personal. A post from Instagram about a U.S immigration Supreme Court ruling. They were all important to us, and we each made our case as to why we should do our own. Kamaya, Alex, and Jayce then all agreed we should do mine because it involved a real life current and important issue. I found it so interesting that we were all able to come together and agree on what topic and media post to choose, even if it wasn't their own. Not only did WP2 teach me how to collaborate with others, but it also taught me how important group work is to ensure we include everyone's point of view.

WP3 was really just me using the skills I learned in the previous projects, with a few

bonus things I learned. For WP3, similarly to WP1, I was able to include a friend. Since Isabela was chosen to be in my WP3 group, I found it a lot better and easier to work on the assignment. Also similarly to WP1, I made sure we all agreed on a topic I knew would be easy to discuss in a group setting. Once we agreed on the topic, I instantly knew we should do a video/podcast type of media and I also knew exactly who our target audience should be: the ones directly affected by that current issue. I was a bit nervous for the podcast though. This was my first time being involved in not only a group podcast, but a podcast in general. I've always wanted to make one, so it was a good learning experience, but definitely harder than anticipated. Since it was a large group, it was hard to create a direct script like I did for WP1. I couldn't really force anyone to stick to it, hence why the video was so long. I just jotted down like our 3-4 key talking points and tried my best to steer the conversation in that direction. I did want it to be more of a laid back conversation type podcast, so it did sort of work out in the end. However, I did not think it was going to drag on so much, so I had to learn to edit videos. Keep in mind this was my first time ever making a podcast, let alone editing a video. I had to research what editing software was the easiest to use, install it on my computer, and look up how to even use it. Editing is a lot harder than it sounds, but I'm honestly really glad this project gave me the opportunity to dip my toes in, as editing is definitely a skill that is involved in Journalism. You have to be able to condense/manipulate videos/audios for your audience to pay attention and understand. Especially nowadays with the rise in short-form content. Something else very important I learned how to do for this project is how to share and send big files to others. I never heard of "Dropbox" but it's something I definitely will need to use in my future. It makes sharing big files with others a lot easier. Honestly, before using it I wasn't even sure it was possible to share a file bigger than 300MB.

I've learned a lot in this class overall. Not only did I learn important English/writing skills, but I also learned other important skills necessary for a future career in Journalism, like media and group/collaborative skills. I could definitely incorporate ethos, pathos, and logos into my writings and reports in my Journalism career. It could help me persuade audiences with emotion, logic, etc., just like we learned to do in class. This class also taught me how to write a proper cover letter for jobs which of course I can use in my future when applying after graduating. Finally, I can use the multimodal skills I've learned in my future career as a journalist by incorporating audios, photos, and videos to my writings to make it more engaging and appealing to my target audiences. I can also use my editing and sharing skills to edit videos and share them with others I may be collaborating with.