

Dear Professor Ellis,

I must admit that when the semester first began I was extremely depressed by starting school and by taking another course in the major. I was so unmotivated after returning back from winter recess and I was not interested in what Digital Storytelling would mean. After the first class you changed my mind. I was finally able to be creative once again after being beaten down by previous courses and a tough finance internship, I was truly losing my thirst for creativity. You brought it back and for that I am very grateful.

As the course carried out we began to explore a few fields that were meaningful to me such as Twitter, YouTube, podcast, html, and Twine, which I have never heard of until now. The ability to create and tell stories by using these new forms of mediums has helped me become a better digital storyteller. I never imagined that I could call myself a digital storyteller until now. This class nurtured my love of writing and my social media savviness. Telling stories via the new forms of digital medium requires you to do a careful analysis of your audience because no two mediums are the same. Each digital platform requires you to identify your audience and to craft a narrative that is unique to that platform. For the first project, Twitter, it allowed me to use a site that I am incredibly familiar with. Creating a digital story on Twitter requires the writer to be able to tell a meaningful story in less than 140 characters and media. Being that I worked in social media prior to taking the class this came naturally to me. I really enjoyed trying to curate a tweet that was under 140

characters that incorporated the affordance of Twitter such as the hashtags. Also, although the tweets were pre-planned it was still nice to live tweet in class, which made me realize that a career in social media is fitting for me. The story that was told via YouTube was a new platform for me to learn. I have always been a lurker on YouTube but never a composer, someone who could add value to the platform. YouTube is a whole another audience, the video and the entire platform was a new experience for me. The attention span of people is very short and to have a video that is under five minutes is something that I had to constantly think about. I wanted to have content that was useful and to create a video that would showcase my expertise. Another one of the projects was to create a podcast. I had previous knowledge about script writing from my internship but it was from a financial approach to writing a script, and this project allowed me to be creative. The HTML project was the most challenging for me. I have never taken a course in HTML and although I have a personal blog, I do not use any html codes. Even though the project was challenging for me at first I can look back and say that I have designed and built a website from scratch. Twine was a

At first, briefly thinking about the way I have learned to tell stories via new mediums I can say that the way I think about a story and develop it changes to comply with the media. Now when I write a story, I am constantly thinking about the purpose, the audience and the affordance and constraints of the medium that I will use. While the Twitter project allowed me to tell a story in less than 140 characters, the HTML project gave me a chance to write out a long detailed story

that users had choices to make. YouTube allowed me to be creative by using a rock-lady to create a video on a topic that everyone struggles with. Then to turn the YouTube story into a full-blown podcast was incredible. I have always dreamt of creating a podcast and I was finally able to do that, I was so excited that I shared it on LinkedIn and it has received over 80 views that I would have never expected. The ability to create all these phenomenal projects that I can use for my portfolio is such a great feeling. Lastly, the group project brought all of the skills that I learned over the course of the semester that I would need to incorporate in the final project. The final project turned out to be a combination of everything that we learned in the semester. Additionally, everything from brainstorming an idea, to writing out the details, to planning and then final execution was the final project.