

To: Professor Jason Ellis
From: Pamela Drake
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Looking back to when the Digital Storytelling course first began, I can truly say that my writing has developed immensely. Not just because I am further along, but because I have grown so much within that time. Learning new things has been truly beneficial and being able to put things I already know in practice has made it all the more exciting. That's not to say it has been easy learning new programs because there were times I found it extremely challenging. Yet, I knew that I wanted to learn more about them and I am excited to continue learning how to these new programs.

The highlights of the course for me would probably be the creative portions. Allowing my imagination to freely explore what others would enjoy and also navigating through new media were the best parts. Developing the projects were quite extensive and yet enjoyable. I was able to learn how to begin the process of compiling information through planning, giving details, structuring and executing. Using the tools that we learned in the class such as storyboarding and writing scripts, it has taken me to a deeper level in my writing skills.

I have always enjoyed writing but have always been too busy to participate in any projects that was substantial. Even with my years of being in college, I wrote what was required and usually no more. But this last semester has been different, largely due to this course.

I enjoy expressing myself through my writing and experiencing it through different mediums has made it more and exciting. Learning how to write, and yes I did say learning, has changed my life. Maybe it will not be seen right away but the way I now write has changed. I have learned to focus on the design of my writing to add to the professionalism of my documents. I am no longer just filling in gaps when I write but adding both substantial and relevant information.

Working on the Twitter project taught me that social media makes storytelling even more possible. Telling the story on Twitter allowed me to create something that progressed and developed in a complete linguistic and visual expression. The YouTube video was also a groundbreaking experience for me having never created a video. I was able to create content that gave advice in a humorous way and share it through the YouTube platform. The challenge of making a podcast that was would hold the attention of the listener and deliver a message was exciting. The added element of episodes also taught me more about coordinating deliverables in a collaborative effort.

The HTML and the Twine projects were my favorites as I enjoy coding and writing in formats that offer choices of design and structure. Learning how to manipulate text and take a design from concept to deliverable, while having complete control was a great experience that I will continue to explore.

Each of the platforms came with their own affordances and constraints and finding programs that appease to all audiences is the overall challenge. My greatest takeaway is

that there are many platforms which can be used to tell stories and transposing them across mediums not only help to expand on the story but can reach a wider audience.

My final thoughts are that this course is a much needed course and I am motivated to continue writing and using the techniques and practices learned in the class.