Dear Professor Belli,

This project has been one of the most frustrating, yet creative process I have ever been faced with. In the initial steps of the project I was completely at a loss due to the fact that I had not ever had the chance to create a project basically from scratch. There was always some form of guidelines that I had to follow. At first, I had no idea what I wanted to do, I found myself scrambling to come up with a topic. When I did finally settle on a topic it I was very interested in the vision and theory which I had formulated. I was also rather proud that I was able to create a project which encompassed rather important aspects of the course.

Signed off enabled me to integrate both attention and participation structures, and measure how these structures are affected by social media detachment. I also wanted to see how the psychological being or ones’ emotions would be effected. Would a person become more worrisome, nervous, or fearful? Would a person succumb to more anxiety due to all the missing information? After proposing this I had the difficult in narrowing down the project; as the project entailed be detaching myself from social media, I had to decide where the project would begin and where it would end in the sense of what I would not and would not indulge in. I had to decide what I would cut myself off from and what I would be allowed to do. With this done I also has to figure out what I wanted this project to look like at the end. With the revision and drafting aspect of the proposal this was very helpful.

When the project got into full swing the write up for me started out as a challenge. In such a short amount of time it felt most days like I was forcing the things I was noticing and after the first few days I had to put in perspective each day the things I would be measuring. For instance, some days I would I have to make the conscious decision that I would purposely be on alter for ways in which I was paying attention or participating in certain aspects. I do think that this in some way made the project a little forced and probably pushed it into a certain direction but however I do that these feelings or changes in these structures would have eventually occurred if the time frame was longer. When it came to the revision aspect I had to try to integrate the already written blog posts with the research that I had found and try to make everything as cohesive as possible. With the project being based so much in my opinion the hardest part was find parts of my chosen sources to actually support my claims. I can say now that in reflection I wish I had made as a term of the reflection that as each blog post was done research would be carried out that day to also make sure that the project did not seem forced but as natural as possible. As another component of the project, I proposed that I would capture videos and pictures that also went along with the daily blog posts. As the project continued I realized that they were not as easy as I thought it would be. Each picture had in some way had to reflect the post or the post be reflected in the picture. With this said, I can say now looking back that this clear in some way influenced what I wrote or felt.

As the project continued to progress and constant revision occurred I found myself more aware that I was in fact not comfortable with what I had proposed to be the final outcome of the project: a video. My daily videos that were to be captured made me uncomfortable and felt forced as to why most of the post have pictures and the ones that do have videos are of objects, the world around me, or if they are of me my face is not seen. This forced me to change the outcome to what I presented in the final write up as a digital diary. Since a large portion of the project was the write up integrated with pictures and few videos I believe that this would be the best presentation. The write up included much of what I felt, and well a diary captures that for most 12-year-old girls however mine would more multimodal and research based. This all came into focus for me with the use of the weekly progress reports or reflections that had to be done. I was able to gauge my engagement in the project, next steps, my own participation, as well as what I was lacking. The reflections were a nice way of stepping outside the project and looking inward to seeing what could be done to propel the project forward. In class presentations also helped with this because more feedback was given from peers who were able to see the project from another angle and offer insight into making things clear as possible.

With that said, another important factor was the presentation of the project online. I had not had much experience in City Tech’s OpenLab site before this class, and even less on customizing the E-portfolio site. I had an idea of how I wanted my project to look and the overall presentation of myself on the website. After meeting with members of the OpenLab help team I was able to successful create headers to go along with my working ‘sliding doors’ theme. I was able to edit and update my site in a way which I believe represents myself as a growing professional. I believe it offers a look into my personality as well as various talents. With that said, I had to focus on how I would also present this project. With the aesthetics for the most part figured out I had to figure out how I would customize the site in a way that fit the picture in my head; a picture which I tried many times to forget. I finally came up with the idea that I would place snippets of the project on the actual E-portfolio site and link it out to a WordPress site that I had created to host the actually project. This way both my vision and creativity would be satisfied. I believe that in being able to come up with an idea such as this it only shows me of what I am capable of. I was able to take a challenge and find a solution in which I think satisfies the project and the aspect of creativity fully.

I believe that this project enabled me to develop as a professional in aspects of my communication skills as well as growing in resourcefulness. I was able to create presentations that were thorough, concise, and clear. These presentations were in my opinion well thought out and gave a very clear idea of what my project entailed. I was also able to find solutions for problems with arose during the process which has showed me that I am able to tackle more than I think I can. Looking back now I can say that all of this has helped me to understand that writing with new media calls for an individual who is both resourceful and clear in speech. Writing with new media demands that thoughts be clear and in a way can be read from various angles but lead to one or a few of the same high points. This project has also opened my mind as a thinker by allowing me to think beyond what is handed to me. I was given the chance to not only create my own project but determine what it would be and how I could present it. I developed as a research because I in some way learned to be thorough more so than before and find answers which were not readily provided. In my opinion I believe that I have grown as a more analytical reader and a writer who can produce more and more text (well written text) than I once thought.

All in all, I believe that due to this project I was able to grow despite the lots of frustration which I faced. I was able to produce a project that I am not only satisfied with but proud of as well. I plan on keeping the piece as a feature on my E-portfolio site as well as potentially going onto adding to by continuously disconnecting here and there in order to fresh my mind and gain new perspective. I also hope to possibly use this as the basis for my senior project. I thank you Professor Belli for agreeing to the terms of my proposed project and encouraging the growth of it. I hope that the final completed version does not disappoint.

Warm regards,

Mariah Rajah.