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**PROFESSOR: Schmerler**

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**MY JOURNEY** #2

Dear Professor,

This semester was…interesting. The transition to quarantine really threw everyone off through. In Unit one the assignments we got were easier to follow. The daily journal where we write what we hear in public places worked for a while. But I started to run out if ideas and things started to repeat. I tried to branch out to write about what I see too but I know it wouldn’t last long too. What also made it difficult was the fact that my route is always the same and not everything that stands out can happen around me. Each entry felt more and more stale. The diary entries we have been doing during these times. I felt more freedom on what we could write about. It really works well during an online class. I just started to run out of things to write about. But I believe there is still more to write about.

Unfortunately, Unit three did not went too smoothly. I think it is more to do with the misunderstanding of instruction. The instructions were very vague. Students usually look for specific instructions to know exactly what a professor want. If this pandemic continues to the Fall and Spring 2021 semester, I think you need that summer break or a long time to find a way to explain the assignments to a class. Overall, my experience in your class was positive. You were clam and understanding and made the assignment interesting. I sometimes wonder how different the normal class setting would have been like. Thank you for a wonderful semester.

-Brianna

**UNIT 1** #3

**(selections of your best work)**

**Relationship with writing**

**Conquering Writing**

 English was not my strongest subject. In middle school English was not my favorite subject because of my lack of writing skills. If you told me back then that English would be one of my better subjects, I would not believe you. However, like drawing, almost anything is possible with just a paper and pencil. There is no limit except for your mind and imagination.

I was terrible at writing essays until I learned how to structure my essays in 8th grade. I used to spend most of my time thinking of the wording of sentences and paragraphs so the rest can flow nicely. The idea was to find a thesis and three reasons for it and used the body paragraph to go into more detail for the reasoning. Each sentence had to play a part in the paragraph. It was a lot to wrap around my head, but we learned this by doing this every day and multiple times a day for the whole school year. It felt endless and I was getting sick of it. I was able to make the finish pass the class and state exam and have been prepare me for high school. I guess you can say it has been ingrained in my head so keep writing like this.

 In high school, writing started to become confusing. Some teachers had slightly different ways of formatting their essays. This broke a turning gear in my head. At first, I wrote first drafts in small notebooks, but it was too time consuming since I also took too much time on the sentences. One thing for sure is that the confidence of my writing decreases whenever I take essay tests. Once there is a short time limit the quality tanks in my eyes.

Last semester in English 1101-co, my writing changed a bit. What opened my eyes was the format of the outline we learned. My professor walked us through it every time we had a writing assignment. It wasn’t too different from what I learned before, so it was easy to pick up the structure. All we did was label each line with Roman numerals, letters or numbers and then use phrases instead of full sentences to fill in the blanks. There was a big emphasis on having a good thesis and reasons that'll support it. All I needed was small phrases. This also helped me to expend my writing to longer essays. After that class, my confidence went up when the professor compliments my writing.

In conclusion, without the knowledge gain from 8th grade, my writing would’ve been a complete mess. My relationship of writing was shaky. But now I got a better hang of it in my time here in city tech. As long my imagination and mind are open, I could speak my mind. I hope in the future to continue to improve my skills as a writer. There are stories I want to tell, and I hope in the future I can tell them.

**Daily Train Journals** #5

**Week 6 Session 1**

3/2/20

7:33am-7:41am

There was nothing but silence. I walked deeper in the tunnel, tens of the pilers held it up. From what is to come. As time pass slowly, the tunnel echoes the sound of the beast the ate millions of people per day. The sound builds up more and more until it came rushing in. It stopped with a screech at the end of the tunnel where I stood. It opened it’s mouth and said “this is the Manhattan bound two train. “The next stop is-”

After the train stopped, my car got pretty crowded. Scratch that. It got really crowded. We had traditionally delayed on President St. The conductor didn’t announce it this. Maybe because it is self-explanatory that the next stop is where all four trains gather and crisscross over each other to make it to the same stop. Welp, I do not mine too much since I’m left early today.

**UNIT 1 REFLECTION** #6

After spending five weeks in this class, I would say it was not what I expected. I was expecting a steep difficulty spike compared to my last English class. Such as eight and above plus page essays and even an essay every class. To my surprise, this class was at a comfortable level to fully digest the information. This unit was great, but its too bad that I had a rough start. For example, I had some struggles along the way, had an okay first draft, and reflect on everything I did so far.

The style of teaching writing in this class is a breath of fresh air. It was always a drag to go through my English high school. It was like the way of teaching was on repeat every year. It was a lot of just writing to meet requirements instead of improving it. Now that everything is out of the norm, I had a bit of a struggle doing the homework. I’m not used to writing things straight from my mind about the things around me. Not a lot of different stuff happened every day on the train. It’s always the same sound of the train, same announcements, same engine and same quiet passengers. There’s also the problem of spending most of the time thinking about what to write. I’m trying to break that habit when doing quick writes like this. Lately, I’ve been writing about what things base on other senses.

During this unit, we had to do an essay about my writing skills. I didn’t do so well and saw all my mistakes when I got my paper back. I felt like I could do better with a rewrite. But would I fix it? I would make it better by working on my verb tense, separate ideas to prevent run on sentence, take away unnecessary ones and have someone read it. I have a little handbook to help with my grammar. I learned that other classmates had different strength and weaknesses with their writing. It’s nice to hear other experiences because it let me now, I’m not alone in having to improve our drafts.

I think I should get an A for reading. When we get a reading assignment, I read it and analyzed it. For short writing, I think I would give myself a B. Mostly because, I fell off for a few days after I couldn’t find anything to write about. I put everything in the first writing. I think I made up for it though because I wrote about all my train experience to and back from school. I got a low B for my first draft and I think I deserved it. Again, I could’ve done better. My Participation is A-. I haven’t missed a day and I participated at least once per class. I don’t know how a total grade works, so my guess is a B. It was the first month so there is room to grow.

I had some bumps along the way, but I enjoyed this class. It made learning writing digestible and I clearly know my strength and weakness. I’m glad that we are learning to improving our writing. I don’t see clear differences in its just the start but I’m sure I’ll see soon enough. I can’t wait to see the results of my effects near the end of the semester.

I received a check, “indicates satisfactory work,” for my Unit 1 reflection. As a letter let grade, it is a B (83%). My relationship with writing had a low B. I had a lot of mistakes. I edit the essay from the first draft. I feel like I did not execute my thoughts clearly.

**UNIT 2** #8

**(selections of your best work)**

**Weekly Diary**

**Week 1**

3/23/20

4:47pm

Even though I can't go outside, I'm already used to staying inside for a long period of time. I liked staying home for the summer after a long semester. I’m not big on traveling places I’m not use to. I’ll get home sick by the second day and be frustrated by the lack of Television shows or Wi-Fi. I felt this wat when I visited Grenada. A small island with a definite lack good internet service and lots of bugs. I tried to keep myself occupied by taking picture. But in the end, home truly became home sweet home. I have plenty of options to entertain myself. I can watch 'The Office' on Netflix, catch up on anime or cartoons, read my manga, and play games on almost any device I have. This is mostly hopeful thinking. I know eventually I would not have as much time to play any video games near the end of the semester. These activities will also clear my mine for the virus.



Photograph I took in Grenada

I did not have anything to work on, so I played my games for the rest of the day. First, I played a game that I usually check daily. On my iPad, I'm able to play a game called 'Sky: Children of Light'. It's about candle children spreading light to others that need it. It can be relaxing to play. It feels like it’s heavy on making friends and communication. The game allows your character to fly majestically over large areas. It amazes me still on how they a game like Sky can look and control so good. Then there's the ability to make friends in the game. Everyone is so nice and are always glad to help. It takes more than an hour to finish what I need to do for the day. I always try my best to finish it as fast as I can. This game can grab me in it’s world for most of the day.

3/24/20

7:00am

Tuesday was the longest day in school but NOT ANYMORE! HA! I am glad that there's no more three hours classes especially. But soon I realized that I would have to go to school and work on my work. That makes me sad. It was a hassle when I went to the Learn center to use a computer. Also, their Adobe software were out dated. Why can’t we use Adobe at home!

10:54am

I just finished my figure drawing class. I think this class will go through the most changes. We are now just drawing in sketchbooks and to use whatever we have. The video chat experience was pretty good. For most of these, I would be using just my mic. Cameras make me uncomfortable. Luckily, it's not mandatory. Something funny happened towards the end of the session. One of the students had an improper name. Some texted me that and I was dying. It didn't talk long till someone pointed that out. Professor Nelson was cool about it. The person was just marked absent.

11:10am

Oh! We can finally use Adobe at home! Now I can be a complete hermit. No more trains, people, or time limit. Not the real question is… Will I get stuff done more efficiently?

**Week 2**

3/30/20

8:30am

Oh shoot! I just woke up right when I should be expecting a message from Openlab. I thought I missed something but it's a meeting set up for our summary in a diary we read. That reminded me, I haven't mentioned much about the media we used to communicate as a class. Only one class is blackboard so far and it works mostly well on my side. I heard it was bad from other students, but I didn't really see a problem with it. Zoom is better not only because of the voice chat. Accessing it isn't as time taking. All I need is a code and password and then Bam I'm in. Little stuff like that makes up the difference over time.

9:02am

I saw that a lot of people picked the Wimpy Kid. I picked the wimpy kid mostly because of nostalgia and I never talked about it. It was a well-known book at the time and to anyone that read it as a kid. That shouldn't surprise me, but it still does. When I experienced things as a kid it's usually in my own bubble. So, imagine my reaction when reading people's experience with the same book.

4/2/20

12:46pm

Oh sweet! I finally learned how to finish a piece of the "Falling in Love with You" by Elvis in the game Sky. I don't know if I mentioned this, but I'll briefly explain. You can play instruments in Sky.

2:08pm

Now that I'm finished playing the game. I can now write more. I took a super liking learning to play songs in this game. I repeat and repeat the songs I learn until I start getting them right without mistakes. It always feels satisfying sounding like the song that is usually played for you. One thing I feel that's a negative playing on this game is that I can't play along with someone. The game has delays for connection between players.  Duets rewires coordination and it's hard to do so when they hear my notes a second later. I really want to pull it off, but I guess it'll require practice and a solution to that problem.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16JKWwUY1fXnBl5cA1Ea8VvEAXaXD_5C7>

*This was recorded March 29th. But I put it here since I talked more in depth on the music here*

4:22am

I just finished my Typography class. It went pretty well. We had a presentation of a Typography artist we picked a week ago. I picked Herb Lubalin. His work is really good. It definitely looks like it took hours for him to pull his drawings. Especially for a time with little technology like we have today. So, for the presentation I did pretty good for my class. The absence of eyes looking at me helped a lot. Usually I lose all what I am going to say and even when I have a card to read from.

4/3/20

10:19am

It is now a week till my most anticipated game for the year. It looks like this year of games is non-existent. It still stinks that GameStop closed since I preordered the game there and it was the standard edition which came with an artbook, a soundtrack and etc. The only option I have now to get it next week is, go to BestBuy really early so I can be first on line to get it. The game looks so beautiful. I am not a person that's big on graphics. But the textures of the ground look rough, the clothes look like it fits, and the hair looks fluffy.

2:46pm

For Graphic design, it looks like we have to make a cube. The Professor made it look easy but when I tried it, I screwed up on putting it together. Luckily, I used a practice copy of the box.

**Reflection and Analysis of Diary of a Wimpy kid** #14

I only read one kind of dairy like story is the Diary of a wimpy kid. Reading it again brings back memories. I have the books from "Rodrick Rules" to "Cabin Fever". I lost the first book and I stopped at Cabin Fever because I grew tired of the series. I don't remember why. I definitely remember that the first and second books got movie adaptations. So, imagine my excitement to read this story again after it got lost in childhood memories.

I like what I read so far. The way it's formatted makes it easy to digest the context. If I see a huge amount of text, I would’ve freak out and feel anxious by just looking at pages of brick walls of text. The world felt like it had history as the main character, Greg wrote about his experience of previous events. Such as picking the right seat compared from his previous year and school norms among the rest of the students like the Cheese. It really pulls off the believability of a diary. When characters are introduced to the story the author doesn't bring light to the first appearance. It's written like any other day. As I read more of the story, I learned that Greg is a bit of a troublemaker. He is not as bad as his older brother, Rodrick but he still gets in trouble with his parents enough to learn the form of punishments his parents usually give. But at least he still receives consequences. It brings balance to what Greg does at home. But in some settings in and outside of school, Greg arc's inconsiderate to other characters.

This didn't inspire my diary while I wrote it. The story is fun to read but that's not my life. Everything is slow past right now and my schedule is still busy with class work. I try to put personality into my writing but it's not at the same level as this book. Overall, I like it's perspective inside of a fictional boy head.

**UNIT 2 REFLECTION** #16

This was the craziest ride I ever been on. It’s more like a lazy river ride but with a steeper decline. I’m glad that I am not in high school and doing online classes. My High school had eight class per day, so imagine the work overload. The Pandemic felt a bit scary in the beginning since we were still going to college, but I didn’t let that bother me. This Unit was split from classwork and online work. It’ll be interesting to look back on my work then and now. I’ll go over my experience and differences in work that still help with my writing and the downfalls.

Before the madness started, we went over on what makes music. It was fun to talk about if John Cage’s music was really must. We wrote what we thought about his work. Then we had a class discussion about it, and everyone had different opinions. We also worked more on writing what we hear and turning it into words. Man, I miss that style of learning. Now with a new form of learning left like I was set to square one. The environment of learning changing is was already big obstacle. What I learned years ago and that a working environment effect your work productivity. Meaning, working somewhere comfortable or where you consider a time to relax cause you to have an unproductive mine set. I tried over coming this by doing online class sessions on my computer desk. This will set my brain to a productive mode.

In the beginning of online classes, I was not sure how we were going to keep the same feeling as an actual classroom. We listened, took notes, and interact. Up to today, I feel that we would not get that back. Last week from March 30th - April 9th we had short sessions to talk about our reflections on the Diaries we read. Unfortunately, I couldn’t talk to my classmates about our because I was the only one in the room that was able to join the room. It does not mean I didn’t learn from the time I was there. Prof. Schmerler was there and gave her opinion on my reflection and what I can do to improve my diary entries. She mentioned that I should focus on one topic/subject and talk more in depth about it. After that meeting I tweaked my week two entry and continued to keep that advice in mind. While I am talking about the diary entries, I think they are a good replacement for the public transportation journals. Just after a month of doing that assignment started to feel stale. There is so much to write about the train until it starts to repeat itself. It’s nothing like YouTube videos about the wacky things that happens on the train. No one makes a sound and try not to stand out. Even when there are people talking, its hard to hear what they are saying since the train’s engine and rumbling makes it too hard to hear. The new online weekly assignment has more freedom on what I can write about. I didn’t catch that thought at first but now I do. I can now write about things I never get to. The games I play, the books I read, what I draw (I should keep that in mind), music I listen to, etc. ­­­­­­ ­

I succeed in writing the reflection of the book of my childhood. I was surprised that Diary of Wimpy Kid was an option to write about. If I still had my physical copy of hard cover book, I would’ve used it to right about. Better yet I should have read the second book. I like that in my reflection, I caught signs in the book that I would’ve when I first read it. I also comparted the dairy to my own. I found that the main character feels comfortable to write whatever in the dairy and feel confidence to whatever he wrote. I don’t wright mines like that because I know someone will be reading it. I can only write what I am really thinking went I know no one will read it. I need to improve on my comments for other students work. I don’t think I have a critic eye on essays especially when I also don’t have a grip on writing. When making comments I tried to say what I liked about their writing and a suggestion if they about having a problem with something.

This is an adjusting period. It will take time to get used to. I just hope it comes soon than later see that we only have six weeks left. In a school setting, it would sound long but since we are home time will start picking up past. Don’t believe me? It’s almost been a month since the College closed the classes. For the unit I believe that my grade should be a A-. I did good from the last unit up to now. I participated in class, did the transportation assignment at the time and a reflection that I am proud of. What kept me from an A was the lack of comments recently and I haven’t rev­­­­ive my first week dairy entry yet.

**I received an A- for this unit.**

**UNIT 3** #19

**(selections of your best work)**

**Skills/Interest document**

MY SKILLS/ACTIVITIES ARE...

1. Drawing

2. Gaming

**1.Here You will tell us a little bit about WHAT YOU ALREADY KNEW BEFORE the confinement/what your experience has been with this skill/activity.**

When it comes to immersing the audience to its world, video games fill that role very well. Just like other media such as books and movies, they try to connect the audience with the story's protagonists. Video games do this differently by letting the player control the protagonists' action. This strengthens the illusion that you are the hero, or the villain.

I know that the video game industry is still pretty young. It’s constantly changing and evolving with each generation of gaming consoles. I wasn’t aware of this for thirteen years of my life. Mostly because I wasn’t self-aware for three years of it. But I never appreciate anything like this on a deeper level. Cartoons were a way to turn my brain off, I never cared who played my fictional characters I enjoyed watching, and Gaming was a distraction to pass time by when I’m outside. Now I find that there is something more within these activities. But nothing compared to my love of gaming.

I started playing when I was six years old. But I really started to invest my time when I was eleven. It first started with an iconic video game character, Sonic the Hedgehog. I was super obsessed with this franchise that I learned history about it and watched animations from the games. This soon leads to watching ‘Let’s Plays’ of someone playing Sonic’s games on YouTube; they were called Cobanermani456. I watched him play other variety of gaming franchise. But he mostly played games by or on Nintendo consoles. I couldn’t play a lot of them since these consoles cost more than one hundred dollars and I felt that my mom wouldn’t get it for me. So, I just watched from afar.

When I turned fourteen, I saved up to get a “Nintendo Wii U” for Christmas, my first home gaming console. It may be one of Nintendo’s worst sold consoles, but the games never reflect that. I had so much fun with the games I had. Some games like “The Legend of Zelda series” made me truly feel like a sword wielding hero that can be somewhat silly and self-aware whenever the game throws at me. “Minecraft, the most sold game in the world, allowed me to freely express myself. The game is made up of a variety of blocks that can be used to make buildings, cities, kingdoms, statues etc. I played this game so much until I felt burned out after two years of constant building. Building in Minecraft gives the same feeling I have for drawing. It takes work, time, effort, planning and lots of sleepless nights. And when you finally finish, you look back at what you made and feel satisfied with what you accomplished. Only difference is, I get super distracted all the time when I let people on my friend list join. Some help, some end up building whatever they want and sometimes we just mess around. But don’t be mistaken. I liked it when someone joined me because sometimes it gets lonely and tiring. Out of the eight or so friends that joined, only one of them became a close friend in Minecraft. His name is Jesse. We always joke around and try to make each other laugh.



Here’s an Arena I built at the time. I had help from my friends.

I meet more friends soon after through a Nintendo’s social space called Miiverse and another game called Splatoon. I was never a fan of using social media. But I feel like Miiverse was a good small step. It was healthily supervised by Nintendo to make it a safe place for children. This connects to Splatoon because on that game, you can become friends with anyone you played with. Someone sent me a friend request and I accepted it. I remembered that I played a lot of hide and seek with them in Splatoon and one day I asked if there were more people that set up hide and seek games. That led me to another close friend named Cosmo. He is a goofball sometimes and funny to be around. Sadly, Miiverse closed in Nov 2017. Once I heard of this, I reached out to them to keep in touch on Discord. Today, I meet more friends along the way and we still play games sometimes together. Lately however, I haven’t been able to keep in touch as much because of College responsibilities. I try my best to at least pop up once a week. Without them and gaming, I can’t imagine where I would be now.

**2. Here You will tell us SOMETHING NEW you learned about it during this confinement period. If you haven’t learned anything new, then go out now and find out something(s) that you didn’t know about it before!**

I mostly know what's certainly going on in the gaming industry and the general history of video games. So, I am going to focus on one event in the industry's lifetime. While refreshing my mind with the history of the ‘video game crash of 1983’. To summarize, the market lost 100 million of dollars after the saturation of games. Two years later it was saved by Nintendo with their home console called “Nintendo Entertainment System” (NES). I thought, “who were these companies”?

During my research, I read that some companies went bankrupt. So, to my surprise when I found out that a big game developing company today was part of the cause of the video game crash. This company goes by the name of Activision. They are mostly known for their “Call of Duty” series. On a YouTube video by Cheddar, called “How Nintendo’s R.O.B. The Gaming Industry” explained that what started it all was when the founder of Activision left Atari (biggest gaming company to the time) to make their own games. The founders wanted credit and royalty for the games they developed. They still developed games for Atari’s consoles but under their roof. This made them “the first independent, third-party, game developer” - *Wikipedia*. When I saw that sentence my eyes popped open. I was just shocked. Today, they are one of the most disliked game developers. So, without them, this industry might have been different without them. Their action caused other third- party developers to take form and that writes history.

**3. Here You Will Give credit to THE SOURCE(s) of this new information and tell us bit more about this/these sources and why you like them. Show us where we can go to find them.**

<https://youtu.be/3nSRzNAwuRg>

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activision>

**4: Context/Brief explanation to explain your skill/interest\***

Video games are another form of entertainment media -- much like books, movies, and TV shows. They became super popular in the late 1970s. Over time, games changed from simply hitting a digital ball back and forth to high budget like films that can be as long as 100+ hours long to complete. Imagine watching a movie and being able to control the main character actions with a controller. Games allow that amount of flexibility.

Gaming home consoles are electronic devices for playing video games. The console runs the game, displays it on a television and takes inputs from a controller which is controlled by the player. There were many in the 80s-90s. Today only three companies make mainstream consoles: Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft. Nintendo and Sony made portable consoles, which allow people to play games anywhere without a Television and outlets. Games are not exclusive to game specific hardware. You can find video games on home computers (PC) and smartphones (mobile). When there is a new popular gaming console on the market, the industry determines that as a Console generation. Consoles offers online servers with a fee. Nintendo’s online service used to be free up until their certain console, the “Nintendo Switch”.

Game developers are the people that actually make the games. There are four types of developers. First-party devs are the development team that is part of the company that made the consoles. Second-party are devs that are under contract to only produce games on their console. Third- party devs are independent and can release their game on any platform. Today grew into huge companies with millions of dollars poured into multiple games they produce. But what if you don’t have millions of dollars and can’t afford to pay lots of people to work on the games you want to make games? Independent devs are a team of one or a few people. They can still have the freedom to release on whatever console they want but they usually go for the platform with the least expensive royalties like on PC, mobile and currently the Nintendo switch.

**Pair Document** #25

**-OUR FINDINGS -- on video games and hula hooping**

**-Brianna and Prof. S.**

**What we have in common -- real stuff!**

Brianna**: Prof. Schmerler and I find that we have a shared appreciation for things that take** patience **and** hard work**. When first dipping our toes into these types of activities we like to see what amazing things other people have accomplished because they inspire us. When first looking at these activities, it’s hard to understand either how people who are so skilled are able to do these amazing feats, or really understand what makes them so interesting to them. Now, my view of hooping changed. Before, I used to see hula hoops as another old toy invention like the yo-yo and slinky. And my first thoughts were, “oh it might be something like the yo-yo, where you do cool tricks.” It must have taken tons of practice to pull off the moves the hoopers do. They looked like they were having so much fun on stage. I’ve looked through some more videos online since and gained appreciation for the hula hoop as a symbol. I watched a TED talk about a Native American explaining the meaning of the hoop. Also, another name the Natives Americans called the hoop is the “Circle of Life.”** [**Here is what I’ve watched.**](https://youtu.be/niRs_VIqzYU)**-B.E.**

**Brianna: I think we share the following deep concepts: creativity, freedom, patience, and discipline! Well, that’s my summary. -S.S.**

**Conversation**

**Hi, Brianna. Here is the** [**link**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY3jBrp0zR84joPfPxTT1gw) **to my fav hoop teacher’s videos:**

**Watch some of this, and read my info on Hooping in my skill document and then ask me a questions and in the meantime please tell me ONE or TWO things I need to watch or see on the Internet to understand your interest. -ss**

**Ok :D -BE**

**Brianna:** A few questions I would like to know from, you, Prof. S.

Do you ever feel like imitating/ trying any of the dances? **No. Not really. -ss**

Did you lose interest in hooping as a kid? **Hmm. Good question. I don’t know if I lost interest so much as grew out of it, as people say. You just don’t play that much when you grow up, you know? You feel like, oh, that’s kids’ stuff, and you move on. -ss**  If so, what sparked your interest in hooping recently? **Another good question, Brianna! I think that when women hit middle age, they kind of regress and go back to embrace things they liked when they were little girls. I know that sounds odd, but it is actually quite healing. When you are young you feel more free in your life, and especially for someone of my generation, who wasn’t given a lot of social freedoms like women have today, hooping made me feel that old feeling of picking up a thing I am good at and playing. I mean, I was okay at it when I was young -- not great. But that somehow doesn’t matter to me now.**

**I also need to give credit to my wonderful new friend, Celia. She is a great hooper; she even makes hoops. Going to her house and seeing her hoops and hearing her really open attitude encouraged me. She also let me join in her “hoop jams” with other women, and she really liked the dance attitude I brought to the hoop. I wasn’t as “good” as the other women in the jam, but I was experimenting with the hoop and using it more like a part of a dance I was making up, and that’s something that the other women might not have done. -ss**

In what way does hooping benefit you or others around you? **This question makes me smile. I get calm from hooping. I get in touch with natural cycles and I think of new ways to dance. Mostly, however, I feel a sense of almost a “hippy” philosophy of unity and peacefulness and freedom. If you watch the videos by JL Baxter that I sent you, you will see that he tells stories of myths and archetypes while he is teaching hooping, and that’s actually my favorite part. -ss**

**The more I think about explaining video games the more I realize how complex this media really is. On a surface level, games require something for the player to do. It can be as simple as ‘go to point A to point B’ or ‘get a certain amount of X to continue to the next level’. But games now require the player to do so many things. So, I’ll stick to games that are more creative and give lots of freedom. -B.E.**

**Thank you! -ss**

**YouTube video links of Minecraft and Dream:**

[**Structures people built in Minecraft**](https://youtu.be/ZoIXD0Tz6qE)

[**Fun little video of a house being built in Minecraft**](https://youtu.be/GYuMaEjfVzc)

[**Making Music in “Dream” for PS4**](https://youtu.be/eMFdmouna3Q)

**\*Most of the video is the process of making the music. His final result starts at 9:30 of the video\* -BE**

**Thanks, Brianna. To be honest, I lost a lot of patience in trying to watch these and was glad that you told me where to start watching for certain things. I am also REALLY glad you carefully decided on only a few, well-chosen things to watch. You focused on games that are about creativity and freedom because you know I like those things, and now you are making me see gaming differently.**

**Final summation:**

**We got new perspective in the following ways: I watched Minecraft building videos that Brianna showed me, and we worked for about 1 and ½ hours discussing them and hooping. She told me that Minecraft is in a genre of video game called “sandbox” and that’s when things fell into place for me! The world of video games is too huge. If I try to understand them and try to like them all -- I will fail. It is better to have someone who knows show me a specific type of game and even more specifically, how it requires some type of skill I already respect. In my case, Brianna saw that I respect creativity, and freedom and patience and discipline. She “got” me after talking to me about hooping and she even watched extra hooping vids on her own to get a better context so she could narrow down our video game discussion. : ) -SS**

**Wow, time sure flies. Before our discussion, I’ve read Prof. S document to learn her view about hooping. I came to learn that she is more interested in the philosophy of hooping and is also interested in music/creative activities. I started searching for more examples of Native American hoop dances. I came up with a few questions to get more of an idea of her connection with hooping. After I thought, “ok now I have a better understanding of her skill/interest, but....” I spent 30 mins scratching my head on how to explain gaming without sounding like a person explaining what dream experience last night. I know she likes being artistic and doesn't have much experience with video games. So, I settled with focusing on one game in one genre. I mentioned in our discussion, “So I’ll stick to games that are more creative and give lots of freedom.” Minecraft fits the bill nicely and it has plenty of examples of a community using it to its full potential. -BE**

**EXTRA NOTES FROM OUR CONVOS:**

**Yeah, it’s a lot more than that. It’s almost a ...philosophy -ss**

**What Brianna doesn’t like in gaming: Turn-based RPG’s. She explained to me what this term means (people have to take turns in a Role-Playing Game) and also gave me an idea that there are different *genres* of gaming. Even though tbRPG’s require patience, she doesn’t dig them. That’s fine! Not everything fits our theory. : ). -ss**

**Wait i just talked to my son and asked if there is any pro side to tbRPG’s and he says people like tbRPG’s for the time sync. They want to put in a lot of time to improve their characters. They also like the progression, but you don’t get much payoff for all that time you put in -- just boosted stats.**

**He agrees with you that they are boring. : ) -ss**

**UNIT 3 REFLECTION** #29

This was an interesting Unit. Discussing my interest in video games turned out as a learning experience. I was unsure if I should write about video games in my skills document. I feared it would sound unprofessional and would carry much meaning. To my surprise, I found out that gaming made a huge impact in my life. I use it to take my mine of things, to make friends and create art. I even get to unleash all my knowledge of gaming from countless videos about the history of the gaming industry. Seeing so many comments from my peers also stunned me. I was happy to see other experiences. Some played same games I know of, and some use to play games. I wonder what a voice chat conversation what be like if all of us can discuss whatever we about other games we played.

When we had to do the pair project, I was very confused on what exactly what we were doing. I think most of the confusion came from having to pick a panther with skills/interest that can connect with my interest. Some were already taken, had skills I already know of, or that is like mine. Anyway, it was too late, and I had to work with someone that had gaming as their interest. I think having us pair by ourselves would have worked in class. But due to the circumstance, I think we should’ve been forced into pairs from the start. I would’ve liked to have done more talking about gaming! But I shouldn’t…I would’ve bored my partner to death with ramble of things they wouldn’t have a clue about.

In the end, I think I should get an A for this Unit. I when over beyond for the skills document and had a meaningful conversation with my partner and learned about how to explain a subject that has an overbearing amount of information. A thing I can improve on is writing more comments on other classmate skills document.

**I received an A. Yeah!**