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**The Analysis of the Experience in Graphic Design Principles I**

Coming into this class, like with most things in my life, I didn't have any sort of expectation, I only knew that it was something artsy. Then we were shown the first few examples of some classwork we were going to be doing, which were these colorful and perfect pictures of leaves and lightbulbs and such. After the presentation I immediately started thinking about what I was going to do, like those perfectly- lined pictures, and I drew a cyclops with crazy teeth and three eyes and horns. But when we were shown the first plain boxes on a blank white sheet I was confused. I thought it was something I could have done in twenty minutes tops. After I rushed it believing in my head I would get a decent grade was when I realized that this train of thought would absolutely not cut it with this class because the critique was brutal. Ever since then I made it a habit to just start it in class and gradually work on It throughout the week and it has been working so far.

Being in this class has forever changed the way I look at everything. I used to hate commercials and advertisements on TV and Netflix and pretty much everywhere. While I am still not fond of them I can't help but analyze every single image, flashing or not, that's shown to me. What color is the focal point? What is the focal point? What color is everything else? Where is everything? Where is the light coming from? Does it work? Do I want this product? Do I need it? And by the time the wheels in my head have stopped spinning the commercial would be over. In a way, my brain is hardwired to be entertained even by commercials. Something else that's different is I just can't tolerate any square in my house that isn't symmetrically lined as it should be. When the ottoman in my living room doesn't align with the couch I just got to fix it, or if my video game cases are messy I instantly make the edges flat; it would not matter what I am doing at that moment.

During my time here I have learned to apply things from class to the outside world. The biggest thing I can take away from the class Is to do what works for me. I tried to do that very first square exactly, the way we were shown, but for some reason I could not get the corners of the square flush the way I intended. Then one session I heard a quote "*you have to figure it out for yourself*" which stems from the old adage "*know thyself*" meaning that every person has to experience their own artistic process to make it their own. So you find your own method of accomplishing the same goal. Something clicked after that because I came up with my own way of experiencing the area of the shape and I have been getting crisp corners ever since.

Outside of class, "figure it out yourself" has become one of my mottos and has helped me adapt to a more independent lifestyle, I am now selfish with my time. Knowing what works for me has also given me insight to what might work for others, which gives me a new outlet for my creativity under the three F's "*Form Follows Function*". As the class moves towards putting what was learned onto a digital canvas under the lens of "going green" I am now learning more about staying focused to the theme of creating an ad. While there is always more to learn, the class has become a team of professionals and soon it will be our turn to add our designs to the world, preferably in a shade of green.