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Media Editing

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Media Editing: What I've Learned

Through this semester, I've come to actually realize and am now able to define media in itself; not only that, but I've learned what media editing really is. When I came into this class for the first time, I was expecting media...you know the everyday reference to media which is music and video. However, this last semester has completely eradicated the thought of media being such a simplistic idea. Who would of thought that media could be they way lights turn on when you enter a theater, or the social interactions you have with people and how the effect what happens in your life. Why not just call media life? It seemed to me in this class, the media had to do with every piece of life and even how we understand it.

When I was younger, my older brother had taught me quite a lot about computers and applications. I grew up learning constantly, and eventually me and a friend started using Photoshop and tried to create cool effects like smoke. For the first assignment, we were suppose to take an image and edit it with our own input, to completely make up an image, or take an image of your own. All images required text input. This was the start of understanding true media editing to me. I wasn't sure of how the text had importance or what changing this picture really meant. However, the idea of putting text such as a quote on an image completely changes the viewers idea of that image, it gives the viewer the understanding of the author instead of just an image.

Our second assignment was very interesting to me. We were to edit sound this time, either by creating our own piece or editing another's piece of music. I have played many instruments and love the sound of music so I was very excited to work on this piece. This assignment made me feel more at home with media editing of what I thought it was at the time. Editing a song is more along the lines of what I would think media editing was, but it wasn't...there was so much more. I had played a piece on the piano and recorded it. Using Audacity, which is an audio editing program I learned how to use in this class, I took the piano piece, and put different effects on it. In this case, I put the reverse effect on it, so the piano song played backwards. It was such an interesting sound and completely changed the effect of that song; the way I heard it, felt it, or understood it.

After the song and image editing, we were to put them together and make a video assignment. I was still in love with these projects because I understood them. I am the person who likes to do extreme sports or crazy things and get it on tape. My friend had recently filmed us snowboarding, and I decided to put all the film together and make a movie out of it for the class. I didn't have the greatest skills at it, but people enjoyed it, and it seemed that is all our assignment was--to entertain.

However, after the image, audio, and video, I left my comfort stage. What could be after those three subjects for media editing? It turns out, that those projects were just the start. Our next assignment was to make a network, to create a network of our understanding that represented our life. The different types of people we were told to place in our networks really changed my concept of it entirely. When I thought of my network, the first thing is my friends and family, and maybe co-workers. But passed that, I wasn't sure what else Aisling could want us to do. I learned that even if someone is in your friends network; then they are in your network

as well, and it extends and extends. Just because you have never spoken to them, doesn't make them in your network. It was such an interesting concept to grasp that somehow we are all linked in a particular way.

In our last assignment, we were expected to design and present an interface. When I was told this, the only thing I could think of that was an interface, was the moderation on my videogame at home. I was completely lost at the idea of interface. Interfaces are simply a way to improve society as we know it. After I understood that, I related it to the game and realized that the interface (moderation) that I was using was improving my game. It was definitely exciting to be learning so much in this class than I ever thought I would. So I created the idea of losing an item, and having a way to find it quickly and without much cost.

I think the overall reason that I learned so much in this class was because of the students. Without their ideas or self projections of what they thought of the assignment, I would be left to think media editing is only what I can grasp of it. But it is not, it is so much more than that. Media editing is the way we walk, the way we breathe, and then changing it to fit society. When someone goes to the store to buy a shirt, that shirt was edited to catch the buyers eye, the store was edited to place that shirt in a most common walked area. Media editing is all around us, and every time you change something, you join the editors.