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Media Editing: Final Write-up

I wasn't really sure where to even begin with this paper. I never thought that I would delve so deep into the idea of media editing and what it meant to me. I decided to start from the beginning so I could better understand what it was that I had been doing all semester. The word "media" is derived from the word "medium" which comes from the Latin origin "medius" meaning "middle". The dictionary says that the word "medium" can be referred to as a middle state or condition. Now that we can begin to understand the origins of the word, we may now begin to understand the meaning of the word "media", or the term "Media Editing. We, the editors are given a medium, something that is there, but still in transit—a middle state or condition. It needs to be shaped (edited) before it reaches the point of becoming a complete artifact. We take this media and we design it and turn it into something better or something different.

The word media can be thought of as a means of communication or an instrument. Of course this has been obvious throughout all of our projects this semester. Yet, is it really that obvious? To be honest, I had not even thought about media editing in this way till this very. If I think back to all that we have done, I cannot think of one project that didn't produce some form of communication. From the first to last module, everything has had this driving force. If we are looking at media editing in this context we can begin to grasp how powerful it can be. Even though I am not a fan of the "media" I will use them as an example. The media takes stories (their media) and present to the people on TV or through the paper etc. They are able to edit things and communicate the message that they want to communicate to the public. A good example of this would be the shooting of Trayvon. I do not personally pay much attention to the news, or mass media, as it is referred to, but I heard much about this through Facebook, Twitter, and other means of social networking. I heard and saw so many different points of view that it seemed as if I was listening to two completely different stories. Right there is the power of media editing. These television stations and newspapers have the power to edit these

stories and communicate the message in whichever form they like; just like we have the power to edit our artifacts to communicate our desired message. Look at our first module for example. I keep thinking of the final assignment and the requirements. This piece was supposed to communicate a message about ourselves. Where we were from, an image of who we would like to be, and a little hash tag that represented how we wanted this artifact to be interpreted. This is a perfect example of media editing and the power of communicating thoughts and feelings. I took so much time on that project and so much time on every project that I did in this class, but why? Why was this all so important? I felt that each piece I created and edited was a representation of who I am.

When we got to module two we were given a few different tasks with editing spoken word. A good speech is thought provoking, can rile up a crowd, change the way people think, cause people to do things they might not have done before. Music is another powerful tool. This is something that I have learned over the course of this semester, going through tough times, always listen to positive music. The amount of power that music has is incredible. The combination of those two things makes for a very powerful form of communication that can be brought to the people in negative or positive ways.

The next thing that we did in media editing was module three which involved editing video. Even through these videos we were trying to convey a certain message. The first videos included us taking a word and making a video that could represent that word—a video that would communicate that message. The same goes for our final which included us bringing awareness to an issue. What a perfect example of the power that media editing has.

This brings me to my next topic which I had not fully considered or understood until now. Module seven was such a strange concept riddled with controversy. To edit someone's life is such an intense concept. Do we really want to put the power of media editing in the position to edit life? Everyone conveys a message through their words and actions and we might see ourselves differently then how other around see us. Maybe we see ourselves in a more desirable fashion or vice versa. I am not sure that I want to know what everyone thinks of me especially if they don't truly understand who I am.

Let's talk about the movie we watched in class and the final project which we had to undertake. In this movie, it was the cutters job to create a video based on who the person was or how they wanted to be remembered. What was the first thing the "cutter" started doing before he began cutting? He talked to friends and family of the person who died so they could tell him about their lost loved one. He could then interpret what they thought or had to say and do his best to create an accurate representation of that person's life. That is a huge responsibility and as we can see in the movie, the cutter experienced quite the emotional toll.

Now let us look at the final for module Seven. We were given all of the information we needed to create an album about the nine months of Daragh's life, but is that really enough? I didn't and still do not know much about Daragh. I can see that he is a very hard worker, but I will never know who he really is? What is his personality like? Is he funny? Some of these things can be gleaned from the information given, but it is not the same. I was given the task to represent who he was over a nine month period, without really knowing him. So leads me to my point, are there lines we shouldn't cross, mediums that we shouldn't edit? I don't know how to answer that question as I feel it can be argued for days on end.

Next, I want to talk about the process of media editing. I began thinking about this question and how I went about editing and creating all of my projects over the course of this semester. I think the initial process starts with laying down some guide lines. Some sort of path for what you wish to accomplish. When you think of the finished product, what message were you trying to convey. If you do not have an end goal, a concrete message, how can you create a good artifact?

Through this thought process I have come to the conclusion that media editing in simple terms, is a form of communication through the editing of mediums. Whether it be visual, audible or how ever else we communicate the message. I am not sure if I am right, wrong, or if I have simplified this too much, but this is has become my personal interpretation. I hope it will suffice.