What is Media Editing? This is a question I have received a lot this semester when I informed others of the classes I was taking. Up until a few months ago I honestly couldn't tell you. Originally I would have spoken of photo manipulation or audio creation, but that's not the only thing Media Editing is. That being said; I now feel that I can appropriately address the question; having a better understanding of what other forms of editing can be achieved. Media Editing encompasses a lot more than I imagined including: Photography, Audio & Video, Social Networking, User Interfaces, Spatial Intervention, and Life. The following is a rundown of my semester including the things I've learned from the respective areas of editing.

Photoshop is if not the most well known and arguably important element in photograph editing. Prior to taking this class; my Photoshop skills where fairly decent, being able to use the basics to create a wide variety with little difficulty. These presumptive skills where put to the test and I soon found out that I definitely could learn a thing or two, especially under a timed deadline. The Response to Kanye West's tweet was crucial in my realization of this, I had found numerous tweets that I felt could be turned into good images however, finding appropriate CC material and making everything work in the 30-40 minutes we had in class was challenging. It was the first thing I did and it certainly shows. The final graphic was a culmination of the additional knowledge I had gained, the overall image was a bit darker than I had liked, but I utilized the filter gallery, gradients, and a combination of multiple layers to my advantage and created a piece I was happy with. As with everything throughout this semester the more time spent on something the better it could have turned out, I'm happy with how they visual elements turned out and looking on it now if I were to re-do them they would be significantly better.

Audio Manipulation was something I had not experimented with before. Given that and with the exception of time constraints on the last project; I had so darn good mash-up which I am extremely proud of. Mashing-up songs from the same artist proved to be a bit of an obstacle, once you have a solid beat almost any song from different artists can be easily put to it with the right editing. Although the beginners editing

lecture certainly helped I was not up to that level of editing (changing tempo and pitch etc). After running through multiple artists I came to Fort Minor and my first mash-up, though there was no fancy editing, this came out wonderful. With the experience of one done, and the knowledge from playing with the program, the group project almost came natural to me. The MLK speech featured looped elements, and was splice so I could have him say certain things, with the theme of dreams, sweet dreams was the backing music and it too came out well. From understanding very little about sound itself and having never used Audacity these two mash-ups show great progression and a fair amount of skill for a newbie.

Owning a Mac gave me the opportunity to play around with IMovie, but again I chose to take the beginning approach (lecture) in class. The extent of my editing capabilities were basically cutting and speeding up clips. My first video was a good reflection of my abilities at the beginning of class; basic title screen and transitions, mild editing, use of pictures, and speeding up a clip. The final video project was much more advanced in my opinion, the focus wasn't on clustering the video with black title screens and poor transitions instead the video was put together to convey a specific message of water conservation. Although the narration is spotty, the cuts and transitions as well as the way it was shot was significantly better. Additionally I learned how to add music and adjust for the appropriate mix of audio levels with the original clips as well as the voice-overs too.

Social Networking, User Interfaces, Spatial Interventions, and Life were all the things I did not know could be edited in a media regard. Social Networking is Facebook, Twitter, and other things of that nature. I would have never thought I could make a map of relationship that everyone I knew had with each other and with myself. This was all new to me, Cmap which I utilized my phone contacts to create an organization chart of where they were from and who they were to me [here]. Additionally in this module I used SocialNetImporter for NodeXL which analyzed my facebook friends and organize them based on location [here]. All of this was new to me, and the resulting products weren't too shabby. With User Interfaces and Spatial Interventions once we began to

talk about what they were it became more understandable to me. The ability to create space or interfaces from nothing which give the impression of a real functioning system is ingenious and what better way is there then through media. I learned that user interfaces can be a wide variety of things from objects to devices, if you can interact with it to being able to create or utilize it for other means than it's an interface. Taking the idea of a all-in-one device I created a wrist mounted computer, phone, etc. With the way technology is today we aren't far from something like this, and I would like to see things like these become a reality. Life was the biggest shock to me in terms of being able to edit, and the movie The Final Cut, was a great movie, aside from being eye-opening it did provide a great understanding of editing life. The final project in which we edited Daragh Byrne's life was difficult for me to do. It was someone else's life, someone who I did not know on a personal level so for me to compose elements of his life was odd, if the assignments were more geared towards one-self then it would be easier to reflect on how you would want to be portrayed. I was inspired like many others to do something similar to Daragh, when the prices of sense camera lower I would like to see really what I do or how I interact with individuals on a daily basis.

In summation, over the course of the semester, I have improved my usage of programs that aid me in editing media, whether it's through Photography, Music, Video, or someone's life. Looking back I am not sure I conveyed the things I've learned appropriately through the writing; however I do know that improvements have been occurring. I find myself wanting to do more with the things I hadn't known before like making mash-ups. The possibilities are endless and I plan to further extend my knowledge by looking into other means of editing. Learning on my own the things like After Effects and Ableton as well as putting the foot forward to become a superior Media Editor.