What Just Happened?

While many students ask this very question by the end of the year, most of them are truly confused. They’ve just gone through an entire school semester and have no idea what they learned, why they learned it or even who they learned it from. That is the end of the conversation for them though, they just move on with not wanting to understand what had been told to them for weeks. Luckily, I was not one of these students as Media Editing itself was interesting enough to keep me going for the rest of my tiring school day.

I had no idea what I was getting into when I signed up for the class as it was an idea given to me by one of the advisors. They said that a few film students choose to pursue a digital culture minor and this was the place to start. I decided to go ahead with it because it sounded interesting as well as I had the time to do it.

This was the image I was greeted with when I walked through the doors and took my seat. I sat there wondering what the *$%^ is all of that. Okay, I see Jay-Z, I see some weird man with a camera, I see Facebook, just what is going on here? I began to panic because as I listened to the conversations going on around me, it was evident that pretty much everyone else in the class were actual Digital Culture majors. More and more people began to fill in the room which also didn’t help my worried behavior because slowly I was becoming the small fish in a giant pond. As Aisling walked into the room, I wanted to just put my face down into the desk. She had a serious look on her face and my instant first thought was I’m so out of my element in the class. She put down her things, turned on her laptop, put on the lavalier and then a smiled appeared on her face. This simple smile instantly took any worries away as I knew that maybe this class wasn’t going to be so bad after all. This feeling went on with the later weeks as I found myself sitting right in front of Aisling instead clear on the other side of the room.
While the class was far from easy and required a good amount of work, it was very easy to take in and understand just what this class was about. It started with our very first module which involved working and manipulating 2D images. This was the final project for the module. Throughout all the exercises that we did during this module, they all taught me the same thing. No matter how simple the picture or design, it still speaks many words. Just because an image is 2D does not mean that the message behind it is any less important than anything else.

The next two modules had to do with sound and video, which I cannot show the final projects. Just like the last module, I also learned from this exercise that it is very easy to get a message across with minimal images and such. It is all about the emotions felt by the viewer more so sometimes than the actual message that is appearing on screen.

Social Networks were the next project as it made us wondered just how much our friends really meant to us as well as our social worth. Just because we may have a friend doesn’t mean that said friend would give you a hundred dollars or let you crash on their couch. This made me really wonder about the connections I was making and if having a large number of people I know is actually such an accomplishment or not? It also made me realize just how connected to entertainment my friends and I are. If you take a look at the photo, it displays movies, video games, a camera as well as video game consoles. While this is not necessarily how I met all my friends, these forms of entertainment are how I keep in touch with most of them.

The next modules dealt with our creative side even more as they required us to create new products as well as spatial interventions for the very building that the class was held. Both of these modules made their message very loud and clear to all of us within the class. Just
because we are younger does not mean we cannot change the world/environment that we live in. If an idea is good enough, it doesn’t matter how old the creator was or what level of education they may have. It shows that truly anyone who has the capability of thinking can make a difference.

Now, the last module was definitely the deepest one out of all of them. We were literally life editing at this point. Given a large set of data, we had to create a story. It didn’t have to be the correct story and that was the beauty of the entire lesson. We could make the data collector seem like any person we wanted to. We could make him a boring loner who sat in front of his computer all day. If we did not like that one, we could make him seem like a real celebrity, out and about every night with friends drinking, eating just having an all around good time. Someone did not like that one; they could make him a creeper. Patrolling the streets late at night by himself wrapped up in a hoodie. The control we had over his life was unbelievable as we could literally paint any picture that we wanted to.

While I learned many things from Media Editing there are a few that will stick with me for a very long time. Yes, I learned how to use Photoshop better or learned how use a program that was a digital scrapbook. But, it was how I used these tools that will stick with me. This paper was suppose to address my understanding of this class and I believe I touched on it here and there. My true understanding about Media Editing is just how easy any message can be changed or manipulated. One person can completely edit one person into something that they are not. They can take someone’s life and make him or her a hero when they were actually one of the worse people on the face of the earth. We have so much power that we don’t even notice it. A simple snap of the fingers and everything part of someone is changed. As mentioned above, I have learned many things within this Media Editing class. Many things that will help me as I continue to move forward with my studies as well as my life. Everywhere I go though I will always remember just how simple my life can be changed for the worse or even the better.