

Project Proposal

“Paper Trails” Photobook

California State University San Marcos

Overview

Things have a way of changing so quickly yet we barely notice the changes as they come.

Rather, when we take a second to look back and reflect on how things may have been a few years ago things can be drastically different. When applying for college it hadn't yet dawned on me that attending college meant starting a life on my own. Sure I've found myself alone many times in my own home; wake up start my day with breakfast, phone a few friends and head out to town to take on the day. But going to college and being alone, with faces and places that were all completely new to me, was something completely different. Here I am near the half-way mark and I still am in awe of how things have settled in. I've found a second home with new friends who have taken me to new places and made unforgettable memories in what seems like such a short time. Although it may not seem so obvious in the moment, I know that these friends have had a considerable influence on my growth since moving out here to San Diego. At the same time, I have learned that having an understanding of my roots and where I come from has never been so important for me. Experiencing a new life on my own has allowed me to realize many things along with the idea that tending to your roots can allow you to grow in tremendous ways no matter where you find yourself.

Proposal

To cover the journey and growth from moving from one home and finding another, I will put together a visual narrative of the faces and places that have strung me along throughout this chapter of change.

Plan of Action

In school we used yearbooks to document events and milestones throughout the year; in some families there are albums and countless photos documenting moments over the years. Similarly, this photo book will serve as another tool of documentation that reminds us of our past as we find inspiration and motivation for our future. Viewers will be able to appreciate this visual narrative because it is something we can all relate to. Whether we come from the same place or ended up in the same place, even whether we went to college or not. We can all relate to the idea that we are rooted in whatever place we may call home, and we've embraced changes that have allowed us to grow to where we find ourselves today.

This visual narrative should be used as a source of inspiration to others who find themselves in a similar situation. Coming from such a diverse background I am in touch with the cultural conscience needed to carry out such an assignment. The storyline of this photo book will encapsulate the big leap from one state to another, and the courage and motivation that was needed in order to meet the demands of new experiences. In order for the topic to become something that all viewers can relate to, I plan to incorporate meaningful quotes and ideas that have kept me motivated and inspired along the journey. These tidbits of encouragement and insight I hope will contribute to the meaning of the visual narrative and allow viewers to connect ideas and emotions to the photos that are showcased. To further deepen the narrative I plan to include photos in many forms, both digital and film, and even a handful of iPhone pictures. My goal is to create a photo book that is time-stamped in this era but can be viewed to relate to many generations past and present. The storyline will be organized from the end of my high school career to my current standings now as a sophomore in college. I hope to include the milestones along the way as well as the minuscule moments that will help shape the story. Visually I plan on

keeping the narrative light with youthful colors that are welcoming to viewers. To create a cohesive theme throughout the book I would like to digitally add hand-written elements throughout the storyline. I would also like to implement my graphics skills to create cohesive pages of worded elements throughout the story line.

Objectives

The goal of this visual narrative is to encourage others to break barriers and expand their horizons. For people who come from a home similar to my own, there are not many options or examples of encouragement to journey to someplace with new opportunities and room to grow. When we act on the opportunity of experiencing something new, we take the responsible risk to gain knowledge and wisdom. What I want viewers to take away from this visual narrative is that “new” can sometimes be daunting, but “new” can also be something very good and we should have no fear to embrace it. Although each individual experience may be different, we are all alike in the sense that we carry tenacity and boldness to conquer new things. This photo book will also serve as a reminder that those characteristics are the habits that we should tend to so that we may succeed in each and every new odyssey that life may decide to hand to us. Moreover, this visual narrative will serve as a reminder that becoming a better self and growing is a daily journey, and there is no competition nor perfect state of being. When we look back we’ll be able to notice the difference between *then* and *now* although we might not have noticed along the way. This collection of memories integrated with bits of positive mantras will remind viewers and myself of all the positive steps we’ve made to get to where we are.

Resources

To carry out this visual narrative there are a handful of resources that will be implemented in this project. I will need access to a computer and scanner to upload film photos and be able to process them digitally. In construction of the physical book I will need the proper editing software to meet to companies art speculations, as well as funds to pay for the production and final print. I will also need to set aside time to collect the photos I would like to showcase and the meaningful quotes and tidbits of advice that will accompany them. Further, I would like to make sure that the quality of the book is to my liking and that will require research on proper paper quality, photo resolution quality, and graphics quality to complete the visual narrative.

Conclusion

Creating this visual narrative will serve a personal purpose to help remind me of the journey that has taken me from *then* to *now*. Furthermore this visual narrative will serve as a source of inspiration to its viewers, and a reminder of the ongoing process of growth and change just as it is for myself. This photo book will encapsulate the journey and growth from moving from one home to another by documenting the faces and places that have been a part of the journey. The first step of the creative process of producing this visual narrative will be to collect the photos that will be showcased, digging into the physical and digital archives that house countless photos of memories. Then I will refine through the creative process to piece together a meaningful story line brought to life with a collection of empowering and inspirational words that will encourage the viewers as it has encouraged me. Creating this phonebook will be a success because of the technical skill and knowledge I have gained from my Photography course here at California State University San Marcos. Sharing this visual narrative with others will be a success because of my culturally diverse experience which will allow to me to create a meaningful universal storyline.