
Writer's Statement for "College Students and Social Media: A Graphic Report"

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I have always been a creative person and tend to think out-of-the-box, always finding new ways to do things and making them as fun as possible. Even as a kid I would always take the alternative route, so it came natural for me that, when given the option of presenting a research project in the form of a ten-page essay or a ten-page graphic, I chose the graphic. Throughout the semester, Professor Holic had done a great job of teaching us that there were many different ways in which information could be presented. For example, a lot of the class was about how we can use graphics to present research and it still is just as creditable as an essay. Prior to this assignment, when I was presented with information in the form of a comic, not only did I remember the images, I actually learned and retained the information more. Therefore, I wanted to provide my audience with the same opportunity.

When creating a graphic, you have to be very thoughtful of the words you choose to ensure that you are saying everything you want to say while providing the reader all the information needed within about a sentence. This was probably my biggest challenge, especially with the minimalistic, free-flowing form that I took. However, I wouldn't say that it constrained anything that I wanted to do; if anything, it gave me more of an opportunity to have the images "say" more visually.

The topic of my project is how social media relates to the every day life of a college student and the reality is that social media plays a huge part in our lives. With that being said, it also means that information is being presented in a shorter manner. For example, to share information through Twitter you can do so with an image and only 280 characters. I feel the comic tied the project together, appealing to a wider audience by using images and minimal words. With my target audience being college students, it was, in my opinion, the most effective way to share what I found with my target audience.

When I created this project I never would have thought that it would end up getting published. And when it all comes down to it I chose to make the graphic because it's what I like to do. I am very grateful that Professor Holic provided me with the opportunity to create the project in this form and believed in it. I am grateful to my parents for enrolling me in countless art summer camps, piano lessons, and dance classes to help me develop my love for art and allowing me to express my creativity. As I continue my journey at UCF and soon into the workforce, I hope that we can continue to present research in many different mediums, allowing it to appeal to a variety of audiences.