Digital Project #2:
Personal Multimedia Essay
CODE121

Assignment Summary
For your first digital project, you will write a multimedia essay about your past experiences that you will add to your ePortfolio. Your multimedia essay should reflect on the meaning of those experiences and how they have informed who you've become. You can choose a prompt below to get you started or write on any topic that includes this same level of reflection.

Objectives
To learn how to craft a multimedia essay in which image and text mutually inform one another and add greater depth to your work, to find your voice as a writer, and practice storytelling with detail and meaning.

What is a multimedia essay?
A multimedia essay uses multimedia, including text, image, video, and audio, to tell a complex story. The pieces interweave to inform one another. Since this is your first essay, I only require images, but you may add other media forms if you choose. You can share photos, do your own artwork, or curate a selection of images online. You will post your finished essay to your ePortfolio (be sure to include it in the course menu!). Our work on the essay in this class is also helpful practice for your multimedia essay in your research team.

Sample prompts
- Write about a time you questioned a commonly held belief or practice. Describe the belief or practice. What first made you doubtful? What consequences did you fear would result from choosing to go against the norm? How did you respond to your doubts? How has questioning the belief or practice affected your life? If you talked through your skepticism with others, how did they react? Did you decide to act differently, or did you continue as you had before? Are you glad you asked these questions, or have they resulted in changes you wish had never occurred? Share images that help us understand your life at the time, the belief or practice, or your emotions surrounding the issue..
- Make a list of places that have been influential for you. They can be any size—a city, a neighborhood, a bench in a park or a room in your house. They might be places you've lived, places you've visited, or where you are now! Write about each place. Who was your community there? How did your experience there shape you? Choose images that represent a feeling or memory about each place. Write captions that explain the significance of the pictures for someone who's never been there.
- Reflect upon a part of your identity that is important to you. Choose images that explain why this makes you who you are. Tell stories that show how this aspect of identity defines you or times where it was tested or refined.

Assignment Guidelines

- Essay is 1,000-1,500 words and includes a compelling title.
- Include 5-7 images or other media. These can be from your childhood, your own artwork, or found online. Choose at least two images for their composition, environment, etc.
- Consider how you use text and image together. Choose the location for images in the essay carefully, talk about them in the text, and **caption them.**
- Show how your thoughts and ideas about yourself and the world developed.
- Refine your style and strike a tone. How do you want to represent yourself to an audience?
- Think about how you move from point to point. What ideas belong together? What words most creatively and precisely convey your story?
- If you search for images online, make sure you have the licensing to share them. The "tools" feature in Google Images allows you to narrow your search to images with a Creative Commons license. As an SIUE student, you have access to Adobe Stock; create an account through Creative Cloud using your Microsoft login. Any images that are not your own, should be cited with appropriate permissions in the caption.

Process and Deadlines

Date	**Write** one description or detail for DP#1, print it out, and bring it to class to workshop
Date	**Rough Draft Due**-bring printed copy for classmates; send Word doc to instructor for review
Date	**Final Essay** to be completed and posted on ePortfolio site by 11:59 pm

Grading Rubric

Criteria	A Proficient Essay will...	A Developing Essay Will...	An Essay still in need of work will...
Length/ Formatting	Include at least five images; 1,000 to 1,500 words in length	Include at least five images; 1,000 to 1,500 words in length	Not include enough images or be shorter than 1,000 words
Organization	Use paragraphs and structure ideas within them for impact	Use paragraphs but structure, transitions, or ordering need work	Not have paragraphs
Grammar/ Style	Be relatively free of grammatical errors; experiment with style	Have several grammatical errors, or basic style issues	Have significant grammatical errors and stylistic issues
Image Inclusion	Use image and text to inform one another; order adds to meaning	Include images but could do more to integrate with text	Not have enough images or they do not relate well to the text
Content	Tell a compelling story and thoughtfully reflect upon meaning	Tell a story but could reflect more on meaning	Tell only the brief outline of story without reflection on meaning