

This is a pre-print version of Megan Adams's webtext "Affective Connections to Place: Digital Storytelling in the Classroom," published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 22(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/22.1/praxis/adams>

Transcript for "Interview with Mac"

Meg: If you could talk about the visit at the beginning of the semester to Mr. Metzger's farm?

Mac: The visit to the farm I think was really impactful when it came to making the story that we did, because if you don't go out to the farm it's really hard to know subtleties about how things are run and how things operate. The tour that he took us on was just really eye-opening. I mean you want capture, like everybody knows about a farm, like oh it's cows, it's corn, it's a barn, but like it's really like a way of life, and that is really what he showed us.

Meg: And so you're from Findlay, so you're familiar with farming life, right?

Mac: Yeah, absolutely.

Meg: So for someone who is familiar with that way of life you talked about being on Mr. Metzger's farm. Could you elaborate just a little more about how that particular place impacted the video that you then created?

Mac: Yeah, I mean it really felt like a sense of family and a sense of home, and I really wanted to articulate that. You know it's really hard, if you've never been somewhere, it's hard to articulate how that place feels, and you know being able to visit the farm, I was able to hopefully instill a sense of like a homestead, almost.

Meg: Yeah, and so if you could think back to when you were editing your video, I know it was a long time ago, but can you think of any ways or instances that you incorporated, or I know it's hard to articulate, but what were you thinking about Mr. Metzger and the farm, because video production is new to you as well, as you were doing that?

Mac: Yeah, it was brand new. You know editing, I thought about taking stuff out that was choppy in some spots but then I think doing that would take away from who he is and not really who is farm is, but what it's all about. It was pretty difficult I thought to edit, just because of the software and whatnot, but that's really what I tried to do.

Meg: Were you proud, or happy, I shouldn't say, what's the word, were you satisfied with the project that you completed and why or why not?

Mac: Yeah, I think I was satisfied. For me, it gave me a hands-on look at how to do digital media, what it's like to go out into the field and collect video and then come back and edit that video in a way that tells a story.

Meg: And so have you applied that storytelling or video production anywhere else, or do you see that as being meaningful for your chosen career?

Mac: Oh definitely, I think so, in PR [public relations], you have to create pieces of digital media to help get a message out. I think that's absolutely vital.

Meg: And so one of the things that I was hoping for with the project was that students would be able to connect to the Findlay community. You're someone who is from this community, so do you think that was a good way to do it and if so, why so and if not, how might you change that or tweak that to make it more meaningful and impactful?

Mac: You mean just how our student relate?

Meg: Yeah, like for you someone who is from here, you have an intimate knowledge about the community, so maybe, students who are not from this community, but are still a part of this community for the four years they're on this campus.

Mac: Yeah, it's kind of difficult to make that connection in four years. I think the way that we did it was pretty impactful, I mean I think Heidi and people who went on the trip to the farm, I think they got a better understanding of Mr. Metzger, but I think it's really hard in just four years to connect.

Meg: And so going back a little bit, the personal connection that you made to Mr. Metzger, could you talk about that and then how that influenced why this project might be different than some other project?

Mac: Yeah, well Mr. Metzger, he's the nicest man I think I've ever met in my entire life. He actually, like I saw him at like three basketball games here, and he was like, hey what are you doing on Friday night? Do you want to go to Arcadia vs. whoever? And I was like, well. . . like I would love to, but I think I had something going on, but sorry what was the second part of your question?

Meg: Yeah, that's awesome, it's great to hear about your relationship, continuing involvement with him and seeing him, here. But how did, you made this personal connection with him that you're explaining, could you describe that and how that impacted you when you sat down to do this project?

Mac: I think for me, I wouldn't call it necessarily a friendship because we haven't known each other that long, but I really wanted to do him justice with the film. I didn't want to slight him in any way. I didn't want to make his farm and his homestead out to be something that it wasn't. I didn't want it to be just passing journalism and making assumptions about things without diving in deeper.

Meg: Can you talk about how that goal of doing his farm justice and telling that story about him, how did that play out for someone who is new to digital storytelling and using the technology?

Mac: Yeah, you know, it was kind of difficult at first, because I didn't really know where to edit and how things would turn out. I had to go over everything with a fine-tooth comb and really read over things to make sure it said what I wanted it to say and just what it looked like in my mind.

Meg: When you say the assignment was impactful, in what ways was it impactful and why do you think it was?

Mac: For me personally, it gave me inside knowledge of digital storytelling and how that process works, but for me personally I thought it was more impactful for our community to see these places and Mr. Metzger that our just hidden gems.