

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 Micah"

Meg: So if you could start off by telling me if the project was meaningful to you or not and then why or why not?

Micah: The project was pretty meaningful to me. I wrote in my paper afterward. I grew up, spent like five years of my childhood on, it was a little town out in the country called Liberty, Illinois, so it was kind of like a hobby farm. So I got to be around the farming community, we lived right across the street from a horse ranch, there were cornfields all around. And then I went to a little high school where everyone was going to grow up and inherit their parent's farms. I got to be around that type of community and see how important that was to the community and its growth, and that was kind of my inspiration for the Metzger project, I wanted to really show people how important this was to the community and then also meeting Mr. Metzger himself and seeing how enthusiastic he was about all of his old equipment and just the farm's history was really inspirational and I liked everything about that and really wanted to really project that.

Meg: So could talk more about a lot of students said they had this really personal connection as you just mentioned with Mr. Metzger, so could you talk a little bit more about what it was like physically being at his farm for you and how you think that affected the way that you created your video?

Micah: Well, like I said, it brought me back to good old Liberty days, that farm was honestly the funnest place to be ever, and being on Mr. Metzger's farm really brought back, all the bonfires and the fishing and the running around in the woods, just seeing all that brought all of those memories back to me and I could tell, these are memories that I have over the course of my 21-year-old life he's you know in his 80's now, so yeah, so I just imagine, the things that I was feeling times a hundred for him. Because it's like this was his life, this was everything he had worked for, you know he talked about how he bought a tractor with his dad when he was just a teenager. I couldn't save like a hundred bucks for a pair of shoes that I wanted when I was a teenager, but this is how much he cared about that farm and it was evident, it was very evident in how he talked to us and how proud he was of everything.

Meg: And then how did that translate into for you, a first question would be what was your knowledge of video editing prior to coming into this project and how did that relationship with Mr. Metzger kind of influence or not influence what you were doing?

Micah: My experience with video editing was just creating my own high school highlight tape for football. As a recruit in high school, you send out your tape to the colleges you're interested in—even the ones that you aren't—just to, you want to get your tape out there. So I edited and put together that whole tape by myself through a website it's called, Huddle, the team used. And I really liked that, I liked picking out the music for my clips, I liked picking out which clips I wanted to put where, and trying to get the music to sync up to what was happening on the field. I really enjoyed the whole process. And so I really did more of the same with the Metzger project. I picked out music that would go with the feel that I was going for, which was nostalgia, so I mean you'll hear in the video, it's just, I think nostalgia was what I

was really going for, that was my overall goal for this. So I put together clips of far shots like flowing grass and stuff like that that would just maybe take people to a different place. Then just tied that all in with just how much Mr. Metzger really cared, it was all tied together.

Meg: Yeah, so I love what you're saying about can you say a little bit more if you can about your feelings on the farm, that nostalgia that you felt, can you talk to me about how or why you felt that was the way to go with this video?

Micah: I think that everybody, no matter who you are you have at least a couple good memories, and it's always fun to revisit those. I know a big reason I love listening to music is all the times it takes me back to, that is one of my favorite things. Actually, it's a reoccurring theme in *South Park*, they're called member berries and they make you member when times were better. And so I think that's something that everybody can relate to, is wanting to go back to a place that was either better or just a nice place, and so I really pulled on my desire to live in those memories and think about those times. I just put all of that into the feel for the video.

Meg: So you had this emotion and this strong feeling of nostalgia, how did that translate as you were sitting down to edit your video, because you said you had a little bit of editing experience, but working in Premiere which is a professional video editing platform, what was that like for you?

Micah: Well at first it was confusing, it was quite a step up from Huddle, it was confusing to figure out how to get all the files I wanted from my computer to this video editing tool. So once I got that figured out it was really just let the creative process go. I think I spent like three hours one night in the computer lab just playing and replaying and editing and redoing everything until I got to where it felt like this was going to evoke some kind of positive emotion towards the project and all of that was made tremendously easy by the tools we were given for the project.

Meg: So your video was one that we chose to so when Mr. Metzger was here, can you talk a little bit about how you felt having him there watching your video?

Micah: Pride, I definitely felt pride. This was something, that was a pretty talented class we had, there were a lot of creative minds in that class and so I went in not necessarily thinking I wasn't going to get picked to have my video viewed, but I went in thinking...the fact that you chose mine given the crowd I was in really just, gratitude, pride, all that and then to have Mr. Metzger thank me for putting that together afterward was just amazing. I really enjoyed having somebody look at my work, something that I did with my hands, and to tell me that it positively affected them, it was really cool.