**Career/ Major Related Project Proposal**

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Date: October 2, 2010

Subject: Career/ Major Related Project Proposal

**Introduction:**

 Newspapers are everywhere and they serve a large purpose, which is to inform people of all the events that are going on around them and throughout the world. Without newspapers being made and published it may be difficult for people to know what is happening around them. People would not know about major events and or devastating stories of things that occurred around the block or across the continent. Society would not be knowledgeable which would create major problems. Mitchell Stephens wrote section called “History of Newspapers” for Collier’s Encyclopedia. Stephens wrote “**NEWSPAPER**, a publication that appears regularly and frequently, and carries news about a wide variety of current events. Organizations such as trade unions, religious groups, corporations or clubs may have their own newspapers, but the term is more commonly used to refer to daily or weekly publications that bring news of general interest to large portions of the public in a specific geographic area. The United States had 1,611 general-circulation daily newspapers in 1990 -- 14 percent fewer than it had in 1940, before the arrival of television.” Stephens quote shows how people have been relying on newspapers for a long time, and for finding out a lot of different information.

 It is true that a lot of people get their news from the web now, however, this all started with print newspapers. The NAA reported that in 2007, 3.6 million more people looked at online newspapers than the previous year (Benson). A Harvard Study done in 2007 showed that at least half of young adults never read newspapers when it was in print (Benson.) This information shows how newspapers are evolving and how technology is inciting interest in news and newspapers again.

 The majority of online news sources are newspaper companies that have print papers, or at least used to. The news sources online also of course have to have newspaper staff members like journalists and editors. The journalists like the journalists from print papers have to dig up information on stories as well.

 Newspapers provide people with a way of learning and being informed. They also try to grab people’s attention, but not in the same way that magazines do. Newspapers try to vary their layouts at times and include images that speak for stories. Papers also try to make the title of the paper catchy or make it stand out by making it an interesting font. Most stories however, are aligned in columns and there is usually not wacky neon colored fonts. The reason for this is because the purpose of newspapers is simply to inform people of major events.

 I am creating my own mini newspaper because I want to be a reporter, and am one currently for the Chimes, which is the Capital newspaper. I feel that creating my own paper will help me in my future and with my career. I plan to focus my newspaper information about the English field.

 The purpose of my newspaper focused on the English field is to show people everything the English major offers, and that with jobs options you can think outside of the box. I have had lots of people ask me what I am going to do with my major besides teaching, and I thought it would be interesting for people who are not in the field to know all of the job options English majors have. I also think a newspaper like this would be helpful for high school students wanting to pursue English, or college students looking for scholarships, internships, or just wanting to know more about their future as an English major.

**Project Description:**

 I am going to focus on the English as a major. I am going to include articles about job opportunities, scholarships, internships, colleges who have good English programs, pay for English majors and how it differs in the numerous career options with this major, as well as showing the differences in pay with other majors per year. I am also going to create a feature page and have several Capital University English majors write about the benefits and negatives of being an English major, and include information about what they want to do career wise after college. Another article will consist of what makes a “good” English major, and famous English majors. I am going to include that to show how English majors can be successful, and what various jobs they have. I also think it is interesting and a lot of people probably do not know that some CEO’s of companies were English majors.

 I plan on including images of the students who wrote stories for me about their experiences as English majors. I also am going to include charts to show the annual income difference for the various jobs that English majors could have, as well as make one for the differences between English major’s annual salaries vs. other major’s annual salaries. I may also make one for how English major’s annual income has changed through the years. I think as with any major people do not really know a concrete amount for the money they will earn since it varies state to state and between companies, and such. I think that the national average would be a good thing to know though, and many English majors would be interested in that information.

 I am going to include other pictures and graphics as well. I am going to pick pictures that will serve a purpose for the stories they are by. I want to do this so I do not just have random graphics that add nothing to the document and causes people to wonder, “why is this there?” I am also going to try to allow very little whitespace in my newspaper.

In total I plan on having around 15 or so articles.

I also plan on trying to make the design and layout similar to a newspaper you could get on the newsstands. I plan on making the layout close to the typical newspaper, but I am going to make it unique in some way. I am going to try to make the layout unpredictable, but still cohesive. I think that the designs are very straight forward for a reason, but changing up things a little will not affect the quality of the paper. My newspaper will still focus on the news and stories, but I am going to add my own style to it. I think that papers tend to do this a little bit anyways. They all have their own style, fonts they use, and somewhat different layouts. I am going to go a little further with thinking outside of the box than the majority of papers do though, while still maintaining the professional quality and intent of newspapers. Also, I am going to add the very tiny details newspapers have, such as the page numbers and previews to other stories at the top on the front page.

 My newspaper is going to be focused and basically for a select group of people, or at least people who have an interest in English as a major. I think it would be especially helpful for anyone pursuing English in college and people to know more about their major. The paper will also show all of the opportunities English majors have as opposed to people thinking the major is a waste of a person’s time. It would be a good newspaper for anyone in any state with English as interest to read. My goal with creating this is to get rid of the misconception that all English majors are doomed to be jobless, and also to learn more about my major, as well as show people how fun and interesting going for an English major can be.

 While I know this project will be challenging I think it will be a unique and interesting project. It also will be a lot of fun. I think the most significant part is going to be time management and doing a bit of here and there.

**Justification of Worthiness:**

 After my project is completed I am going to have a better idea of how to put a paper together and also get to practice my editing and writing skills. I also am going to get to practice my technical skills, computer skills with new programs, and designing skills. I think that this project overall will help me immensely with what I want to do in the future. It will give me a practice run to see what page designers of papers have to go through, and will also help me get more experience writing stories. It will help me see what people who do what I want to do go through every day, or however often the newspaper’s paper comes out. Creating a mini newspaper will also help me see if I am 100% sure I want to become a journalist and will help me know what I am getting myself into. Though I have wrote several news stories for the Chimes, I have not had to write that many, or be involved with designing a paper.

 I think that my project is justified because newspapers are such an important part of people’s lives. The newspaper will consist of many stories and facts for English majors about their future and current situation. I think designing a paper will also help me realize what a newspaper needs to stand out from other papers.

 Overall, I hope this project will showcase my writing skills and journalistic skills. I believe this project will allow me to write better leads and headlines. I also think it will help me learn the technological part of designing layouts more. Right now I have no idea how to assemble or go about making a good layout for a newspaper, so I am going to do a lot of trial and error processes. This will allow me to know what works and what does not.

 After my newspaper is complete I am going to show it to several of my friends or people in my classes and have them rank it. I am going to ask them what they think about the fonts I selected, the colors, the images, if the charts were effective, and if they liked the content. I will also have a category ranking it for what they thought overall about my paper. I think this will show if I need to change certain things about my paper, and what other people I do not know would think about my paper if it were actually on a newsstand.

**Methodology:**

 I am going to make my newspaper using InDesign so I can set up columns easier and be able to insert images. I am going to take all of the pictures myself and if I cannot I am going to include a photo credit on the image. I also plan on creating my timeline before I start my project. I am going to set up days of when I am going to have things done, as well as deciding how long I am going to work on my project those days. I plan on not getting behind and doing the project a bit at a time, and piece by piece. This way my project is not going to seem like a giant never-ending project, and I won’t stress about how much needs to be done or the time constraints, as I tend to usually put projects off and the due date tends to sneak up on me.

 I am going to start off my project after making the timeline, by writing news stories and the other articles that will appear in my newspaper. I also am going to start taking pictures related to the stories and playing around with fonts and name ideas for my newspaper. I think that if I write some of my stories first and play around with design a little more it will be easier to come up with a solid name for my newspaper. Starting out with a name idea for my paper might be a little bit troubling, and writing stories first will help me understand what I want my newspaper to be associated with.

 After I have the stories written I am going to go back and edit them, and double or triple check them to make sure there are no errors. I am then going to start deciding which stories would fit on certain pages of my newspaper and come up with an idea for the order of the sections of the paper. When this is all done I am then going to start using InDesign and assembling my pages. I am going to play around with fonts and pick for the newspaper title and the headings, and also chose a complementing font for the text in the stories. I am going to make the columns organized and the paper look neat and tidy, but also appear interesting and engaging. I am going to also decide places for the pictures I want to include and move around my pages until they look the exact way I want them to. I then will add in all of the little details, and the unique things I want on my paper.

 When that is complete I am going proof my paper again and make sure the layout is in fact what I want it to look like. I am going to print it out and assemble it like it were a newspaper and see if it would be cohesive and clear. While some pages will be different and arranged in a different way due to the content amounts, I want my newspaper to have a good flow. I do not want one page to be the centerpiece, but them to all be equally designed, and also be able to coincide together. To me, a newspaper should not appear like one page was designed completely different than the next, because flow in a newspaper is important. I also want to make sure when proof my paper that my little touches are necessary and or add something to the paper. I feel this is important so the paper is not just fluff, and readers would still take it seriously if it really were a published paper. That to me is incredibly important because newspapers are meant to get the information out there to the people, and without papers being focused people would not want to read them, or think they were as significant.

**Example of a layout for a page:**

Headline for article

Context

Context

Context

Image

Context

**Timeline:**

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| --- | --- |
| October 27, 2010 | Career/ Major Related Project Proposal due |
| By November 3rd  | Have five stories written and three I have written previously edited. Also, look at other newspapers and see what major news stories they include, what their layout looks like, and look at the types of font they use. |
| By November 10th Progress Report due | Be completely done writing the news stories, and begin to work on stories for my opinion page. Edit them, as well as have the comic section for my paper completed. Have my progress report done. |
| By November 20th  | Edit and proof all of my stories for my paper. Have all of the articles for my newspaper written. Start putting my project together and forming the paper on InDesign.  |
| By November 22nd  | Have all of my sections on pages. Add in the little details, make sure the fonts are what I want, and make sure the pictures and the pages flow. Print my paper out and proof the paper several times.  |
| By November 25th  | Come back to my paper and make sure that the pages appear how I want them to, as several days later I will be able to notice what works with my paper and what doesn’t since I won’t look at it for a while.  |
| By November 26th  | Have several people look at my paper and see if they have any suggestions about the layout. Make any changes if several people find anything problematic with the layout or design. Finish my project completely.  |
| Due date December 1st  | Turn in my final project  |

**Risks and Constraints:**

 Since newspapers are fairly similar and the layout is basically the same for all papers I have a few constraints as to how much I can personalize my paper. I also can only include things that are informational or serve a purpose for my paper, as I do not want to clutter the news I am putting on the paper. I have to make my paper organized and cohesive which is why I am going to try and do the majority of my pages on InDesign the same day, so I won’t have incredibly different appearances for my pages.

 I obviously need to include visuals that serve a purpose and it might be hard for some stories to take pictures that tell the story, or send the message that I am trying to get across. Another risk to my paper is while I need to make the stories information, I need to try not to include my opinion in the pieces and also come up with good headlines, which would prompt readers to read the story. Coming up with the name of my paper is also risky since I occasionally have difficulty naming my papers and stories I write. The main risk however, is going to be managing my time and doing things as I have planned. I typically procrastinate, and have so much work for my other classes going on, as well as working two jobs. This will make it hard to find an adequate amount of time to work on this project on a daily or weekly basis, but if I stick to my timeline and do little chunks of my project at a time, I should not have any problems. I think having the project progress report will also probably make me aware of if I need to step up and start working on my project more.

**Other parts:**

 Creating a newspaper will help me in my future because it will help me realize what I will be doing when I start my career. I am majoring in Professional Writing and minoring in Journalism, so it will also help me with my classes and my writing and editing skills. Using InDesign and making an interesting layout for my paper will also help me have the ability to create other documents in a more visually pleasing way. It will also help me in the future if I ever have to put together a newspaper page.

**Works Cited**

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