

English 2010 Reflection

On Writing About How to Get Late to Work for 5 Months

So I made this website, it's not too shabby.

I selected this research issue in part because of my connection to the issue. I have been working at ski resorts in the winter for about 7 years now and traffic and sustainability issues are always something that I've dealt with first hand. In doing the research I learned a lot about the proposals for little cottonwood canyon, I didn't know that much about it at the time but now I'm pretty much an expert. Before I was partial for the gondola for the novelty, now I'm not so much, but I'm still in favor of any improvements either way. UDOT has lots of information about the project to learn about it from.

I mostly chose the mediums that went the best with the projects and my subject. Specifically in choosing to do a podcast, I had some great tape of Jim talking I wanted to use. I also listen to podcasts frequently and wanted to try my hand at it. Turns out making podcasts are hard.

I used the deep dive method for the diving deeper assignment. On the third or so hop I came upon the UDOT website where they had a bunch of infographics about the topic. I put the things that were the most useful to me on the diving deeper page. I used fancy wix tools to embed the content directly.

I am very shy so I struggle a bit with the peer review part. I do realize that it's the most important part of composition, it's a problem. Interviewing my coworker Jim was a good use of my collaboration professionally.

Before the class I didn't have too strong of a goal for English, other than writing a few essays. Our class consisted of building a website for a social issue that we choose, so doing a good job is a goal. I have worked in wix before so it was nice to use the platform again. It's very satisfying to have a context for the work to exist in, to exist as a whole project. I like how my project turned out, so I feel like I accomplished a goal I didn't know I had, which was to build out a full website. This was also my first podcast. It was further the first interview I can ever remember giving. For me doing new things and putting myself in new places is a goal, so success.

At the begging of the semester two concepts were discuses and are now more relevant.

"Language and writing are resources people use to do things, be things, and make things in the world"

Language and writing are resources people use to do things in this world. Nothing more embodies this than my topic. A short google for "slc gondola" will get you a few organizations like mine with much better looking websites advocating for one side or the other. The side for explicitly using the framework of a civic interest website as a way to build a sweet chairlift. The local governments that regulate the projects collect feedback and opinions from locals who are interested. These locals are explicitly driven by these organizations to write well meaning and honest letter to the government explaining why they want what ever outcome. Supposedly all of this feedback will be used in the decision making process. Administrative law in a democracy, very exciting.

The gondola is big and flashy and gets lots of press, but there are other smaller projects that also benefit from these campaigns. Developers in many places need public buy in at some stage of development so this sort of public awareness campaigning is useful skills to have.

“Rhetoric provides a method for studying the work that language and writing do”

I used a first person style in my memoir about being a shuttle driving on busy weekends. Having a personal connection to the issue is authentic. People like authenticity.

I think this means that we should be introspective about how we talk in order to find the best way to reach our audience. I found a friendly and sympathetic character to interview and have him share his story in the framing of the problem. I used his interview both for a profile into his history on the mountain, and for a man on the streets style snip for the podcast.

Informative rhetorical styles were common in many of my research subjects. Detailed in my Diving Deeper research page are many forms including, a podcast series of their own explaining the different issues. I also continue this approach in the persuasive essay about the need for a holistic approach to mountain access.

Hopefully, using a few different styles makes the site approachable to more people.