Mathew Hasting

4/26/2022

NTAS 322

Richard Callahan

Unessay Writeup

For my unessay I decided to use my unique skills as a computer science major to analyze the prompt in a new perspective. Specifically, I have taken a small spin on prompt B, which in short asks for a letter telling an art museum what to use for a Native American religions display. My spin on this prompt involves turning it into a quiz game where you are scored based on questions with relevance to topics covered in this course. To create a game that could be easily completed before the due date, I decided to change the prompt slightly so that the player is a guest director for the exhibit. As the guest director it is the player’s responsibility to inform the museum what they should use for each display by answering simple questions and receiving a short blurb expanding on the ideas presented in each section. With five questions and each having a correct response and an incorrect response there are 10 different responses in total with each providing information to the player so that they can understand the topics they are dealing with. While some of the topics may not immediately be connected to Native American religions, I have chosen them based on relevancy to course topics, as for those not related to religion they are used to provide background on Native American culture which reflects on their beliefs.

As for the specific questions asked, they can be divided into five parts: Origins, Pre-Colonization, Assimilation, Rejection, and Reclamation. For Origins I decided to prompt the player to think about the sources of Native American beliefs to help form a basis for understanding other aspects of Native culture. Secondly, I decided to include Pre-Colonization despite it being similar to the previous Origins section because it focuses more on the social culture between Native American tribes and the influence on their religious beliefs. Next, I jumped colonization of the Americas and went to Assimilation because it helps enlighten the player on how important spirits and religion were to Native Americans, and to that end they sent their children to boarding schools to learn of Christianity. Afterwards, I included Rejection to teach players that not all Native Americans were against Christianity despite their attempts to erase Native American culture. This is important for understanding that to some the knowledge gained from Christianity was vastly more important than others. Lastly, I wrote about the modern-day Reclamation of Native culture and traditions to illustrate how important it is for modern Native Americans. Even if it may not be immediately apparent, some of these movements were created to fight for their religious beliefs, while it is not mentioned in the question or answer an example of this is the Oak Flats protests. Combining all these parts into one, I believe this project to be an interesting take on the prompt and is also sufficient in following the prompt’s requirements while also taking some creative liberties to provide a complete work.