

A Note for Dr. Friedman

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There are so many things I've gotten out of this class, outside of the assignments or other tangible things I can present in this portfolio. The quote that has stuck with me throughout the past few months is one from one of the first days of class. "If I had an hour to solve a problem I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions." -Albert Einstein. I believe we discussed this quote while talking about the C4 assignment, but it went so much further than that for me. My "problem" was myself, and I realized that's why I've been lost is because I didn't truly understand myself. This served as a catalyst for my journey for the rest of the semester to find out who I am. I'm not saying I'm even close to being done on my journey, but the amount of confidence and self-motivation I've gained in this class has been astounding.

By no means did I take this class for the grade. Nor did I need it for any kind of requirement or reason other than the fact that I thought it would be good for me. That being said, it took a long time to get outside of the mindset I've been used to my entire life. The mindset that requires you to give teachers exactly what they want and you'll get by with an A. I knew I would have to get outside of this mindset but didn't know how hard it would be. I constantly found myself wondering if the work I was doing was going to get me a good grade, not because I need it but because that's how I was conditioned to behave. I was bothered by the constant worry that others were doing assignments better than me and that I would fall behind. Honestly, it wasn't until a few weeks ago that let that completely fall by the

wayside. Only then was I driven by self-motivation, not doing work for anyone else.

Another aspect of this class that was difficult for me to overcome is the fact that I feel different than everybody else. We discussed one day how I felt like Rudy Ruettiger, surrounded by people that had something I lacked. I had a lot of doubt that I could hang with these people. I lacked creativity. I didn't know how to overcome that. It actually turned out to be my MMG that helped me through this. They helped me realize that just because I have different strengths doesn't mean I can't do something. Working among a team of different-minded people was a completely new experience for me. I'm used to coexisting with other left-brained, computer kids, who operate in a similar manner. The amazing thing about being different, though, is that you can cover other areas. What right-brained people lacked, I could fill in for. There might be something that I'm not very good at, but it might be someone else's specialty. My MMG has worked very well together, covering all angles of a situation, which we couldn't have done had I not contributed my strengths. So just because I might not be as creative in the general definition of the word, that doesn't mean I'm any less effective.

As you can probably tell by looking through my work, my goal was not to make the most aesthetically pleasing and presentable finished products. Because I know I'm not even close to being finished. It was not important to me for my ideas to look pleasing to you or anyone else, because I took this class for me. I know I definitely could have worked harder on some of my ideas, but I still have plenty of time to do that. The purpose of this portfolio isn't to show how much I've done this semester and how great I am, because

it's not about what you think. I've been working and progressing at my own pace and I'm really happy with the improvements I've made.

The reason the website I made revolves around the theme of stocks is because creating passive income with investments has been a major part of my life this semester. It came about from the personal values and envision assignments, and recognizing that stability is one of my main sources of happiness. It has been an obsession for me over the past few months, and it's become a priority above even a lot of my schoolwork. It is a prime example of me living out my values pursuing what I love.

There have definitely been aspects of this class I've gravitated towards and other things I haven't touched on as much. But seeing as I had no idea what to expect when walking into a class completely outside my known realm, I've been incredibly happy with my growth over the semester and my change in mindset about the world around me. I may not have tackled every assignment as it was intended, but I feel that I've made my own out of the class and experiences a lot of important life lessons. It is exactly what I wanted and more importantly needed as I continue to develop through this phase of life.