

Interview Questions:

1. Where did you find inspiration when creating pieces for your portfolio?

I produced some of my portfolio pieces because of organizations I was involved in and some pieces were the result of my own personal creative expression. I am the type of person who finds a direction based on the work of others. When it came to creating most of my design pieces I found a lot of inspiration from things I had seen and enjoyed and wanted to create for myself.

2. How did you decide which pieces you wanted to include on your webpage?

I chose to include the pieces that I thought displayed some of my best work, so that I could show off a little and let everyone know what I am capable of.

3. How did you familiarize yourself with different software or mediums you used to create your portfolio pieces?

I was able to play around with different programs throughout the course of my undergrad. I ended up teaching myself how to use Adobe and Microsoft programs.

4. What pieces of your portfolio would you say have earned you the most recognition and why?

The writing in my portfolio has really been my shining star, it is what I am most comfortable creating and I think the written pieces represent me in my most accurate light. Each of those pieces are very diverse, so it is hard to tell which one really gets the most attention.

5. What was your biggest challenge in creating a portfolio that would represent all of your capabilities?

It was challenging at first to create something that displayed my design skills while highlighting my writing capabilities and being cohesive.

6. What was the biggest issue you had when creating a portfolio, and how did you combat that?

At first I had a hard time compiling projects that I thought were important, I have the tendency to second guess myself, so making executive decisions on what to include was tough for me. You also want your portfolio to look full, so I had to really hone in on quality control to create something I was happy with.

7. What is the best piece of advice you have received in regards to your portfolio, and what is something you would pass on to another budding designer/writer?

I was told to find myself and throw what I found into a folder, basically, and that is something I would tell anyone. You want to be able to send your portfolio along to employers and let them create an accurate interpretation of yourself with what they were given.

This interview was interesting for me because I am interested in a hybrid of design and writing, and I have been having what sounds like the same challenge Kaila had when she was trying to compile a portfolio. It is difficult to create something that accurately portrays all of your skills while also conveying one set objective. What Kaila said about "finding yourself and throwing it into a folder," really resonated with me because of the truth behind her words. This is something I have been trying to accomplish, but as a young designer and inexperienced writer, it is difficult to create a strong personal brand because there is still so much room for growth in every area. I also thought it was important to recognize that Kaila did a lot of experimenting with where she found inspiration. It is a struggle to create something organically without having a starting point, and I found it interesting that her starting point came from everyday images and articles that struck her.