MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Evia

FROM: Jasmine Ayazi

DATE: 7 October 2018

SUBJECT: Project Evaluation

The photography project that we had was interesting because it felt like we had a lot of freedom with our work. It was up to us to decide what interested us and what we wanted to showcase from “fall in Blacksburg”. While it was definitely fun to snap photos that I felt displayed fall, it was difficult in some ways as well.

**Challenges**

Although I did find this project to be fun and relatively easy because it was interesting, the hardest part would be the new territory it centered. I tried to find the right color contrasts for each photo but since many of them were taken outside in the day time or night time, it was hard to control the natural sun or moon light present.

* I have very little practice with professional cameras
* Booking the camera and SD card was a little bit more difficult than I thought it would be
* Finding new subjects for each photo was a challenge because I wanted to showcase different aspects throughout my project

**Successes**

Overall, I am satisfied with the variety in my work and I feel as though it is an accurate representation of my life and the fall season around me in Blacksburg. I took little aspects of everything I do and the people I surround myself with and managed to put them in one project.

* The variety in my work but the common theme of fall uniting them
* Booking the camera for as long as I needed
* Getting familiar with the different lenses and settings of the camera
* Feeling more comfortable than I thought I would be walking around campus to snap pictures

**Areas for improvement**

While I was excited by this project and I am happy with the result, I do wish I was better with my photography skills, so each photo could be finetuned to perfection. I understand that this will only be fixed with practice. Practice makes perfect eventually!

* Work with cameras more and learn proper settings for each situation
* Learn better angles and lighting techniques for photos

**Resources that helped**

* Online YouTube videos

Before I began this project, I consulted YouTube to help me learn some basic photography tips. I am so glad I did this because it made it a lot easier and way less intimidating when I was actually holding the camera in my hand and was ready to start this project.

* Talking to friends who are good with photography

Besides the videos, I talked to my sister and her friend, who are both relatively experienced with photography. They were able to give me some real-life tips and tricks in order to take the best photos. They both showed me some hands on tricks on the camera and talked to me about what kinds of subjects would be best to shoot.

**Photoshop Fixes**

I decided to touch up some photos that I thought the camera didn’t go a good enough job capturing. A couple of the photos I took looked better in real life than they did in the camera, so I took it upon myself and photoshop to bring the vision to life. Through some photoshop skills I had acquired from Visual Media class and from Yearbook class in high school, I was able to “fix” the photos.

* I touched up pic 4 because the sunset was really beautiful, but I wasn’t able to capture it fully from the angle of the tree. I allowed photoshop to adjust the brightness and contrast automatically, and I was pleased with the result.
* I brightened up the leaves so the color would show better in the photo the way it did in real life
* I darkened pic 9 because I wanted the pumpkin to look more sinister, the way it is meant to look. With the lightened version of the photo, it wasn’t as spooky as I intended it to be.

I briefly messed around with pic 5 because I watched a photoshop tutorial on spot removal and this was a good photo to test my new skill out on. There was a beverage of some sort in front of the fire and I removed it because I felt it was inappropriate and ruined the photo’s clean shot. I tried to figure out a way to remove the people behind the fire, but I was unsuccessful at that. After looking at it some more, I began to appreciate their presence there more because they balanced out the right side of the photo. I also enhanced the photo’s natural colors with auto adjustment.

Overall, I did enjoy this project as it revealed a different side of visual media aka photography. It was a side I hadn’t really gotten in touch with before, so I am glad I got this opportunity to do so. I would love to do this project by myself again in the springtime (such as a “spring in Blacksburg” version) in order to test myself and see how I have improved in the timespan of a couple months. I believe that with more practice, I could learn to be better at photography. I really am glad this project gave me time to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, it is much appreciated.