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Portfolio Final Reflection

This class has opened my eyes to how multimodality shapes our lives every day. Before, I hadn't really considered how the different aspects of multimodality can work together (or not) to produce something new, and how omnipresent these combinations are. There is some sort of intuitive understanding that everyone has of this, but it was fascinating to be able to learn about this in a more formal manner. Now, I feel more able to analyze the world we live in, and be able to produce better work that is more accessible for everyone.

It was also very beneficial for me to be analyzing all of this through the lens of disability. Before this, I had not learned about disability in an academic setting, and every time we read another article, paper, or website, I understood a bit more and became more intrigued. The things we discussed regarding this were things that I haven't experienced in my own life, and so it was especially valuable to be able to take this in. The things I came to know in this class will allow me to have more nuanced discussions about disability, which will then allow me to better participate in said discussions. It is also clear that there is very much that I have yet to learn, but this was a good starting point.

For the majority of my short assignments and major projects, I did initially submit work that was primarily in the linguistic mode: see the totally linguistic tent manual and transcript, the short story about a movie with a friend, or the essay about my experience playing *Night in the Woods*. However, in the revisions that I have made for this portfolio, I do feel that I have added significant multimodal elements that enhance communicative properties. The brochure has been turned from a sorry-looking, black-and-white, almost one-dimensional manual to something that could actually be printed out with a double-sided printer, that has solid pictures, spatial organization, and is even interesting to looking. For my short assignment about League, there is now a video that shows what it is actually like to play that game, in addition to an updated essay that goes into more depth about the subject. And the ultrasound podcast is now a presentation with sensible illustrations and a more logical temporal order.

The feedback that I got both from the instructor, MiSun Bishop, and my peers was instrumental in making these changes. Although possible, analyzing my own work for faults is more difficult than analyzing that of others. Alternatively, other people are more likely to have inspired suggestions than I am regarding my own work, since if I had such a great idea, I would have probably implemented it already. The point here is that I appreciate the work that both the instructor and my classmates have done, because it has allowed me to make my work better. In turn, I hope that my suggestions to my colleagues have been useful as well.

As I started with, multimodality is inherent in just about anything. It is often taken for granted and sometimes even ignored, but like water and air, it is crucial for humans to successfully function. By learning about it here and being introduced to its existence and to what we are able to do with it, there is a definite improvement of how I will be able to interact with the many

multimodal documents that already exist in the world, and how I will be able to create ones of my own.