Colin Byrnes Semester Book Project Proposal

Dual Notebook Personal Planner

Each year from 6th through 12th grade my school provided me with an agenda pad for the school year that they encouraged I use to keep track of our assignments. I adopted the system and it was soon ingrained in me. When I came to Northeastern, I decided to continue the practice and spent my freshman year sorting through notebooks and habits until late in the spring semester I settled on using a pocket notebook. With each new notebook I tried my freshman year, my use of what was originally meant to be a replacement of my high school agenda evolved from a purely academic notebook to include errands, appointments, dates, and doodles to now in my senior year I rarely leave the apartment without my book in my bag or pocket. This summer, as I prepared my resume for my third round of co-op applications, I consulted my notebook as a reminder of what I could put on my resume from my last co-op and soon found myself flipping through my notebooks since freshman year trying to figure out where the time had gone. These notebooks have become a part of my life and for my semester book project I want to design a notebook that is made just for me and a way to preserve these notebooks as a record of my life.

(6)(1)(2) For this project I will produce two books. The first is a pocket notebook for daily use. The notebook will resemble the Moleskines I have been using for the last few years but the design will be modified to my taste. The distinctive feature of the pocket notebook and challenge of the project is making the pages of the notebook replaceable so I can keep one binding for the foreseeable future and only have to replace the pages of the notebook. The second notebook will be a full-sized notebook that I can use to store all of the pages that I remove from the pocket notebook.

(3) I will need to learn book binding in order to complete this project. I will be able to gain an introduction next week in class and then I will have to research how/where to learn the skills I need. My first step, after a quick google search, will be following your recommendation professor to reach out to the North Bennett St. School.

(4) (5) I will need to decide on the most effective materials for these notebooks. The goal is to find binding materials that are reasonably priced/acquirable in order to produce a durable and flexible notebooks that can handle replacing the pages bound in the book. I will also need to select the best type of paper. The research on these materials will be a vital part of this project. I also need to

(7) The final product of this project should be evaluated on if these notebooks can be used on a daily basis for an extended period of time and on how these personal and practical books affect the definition of a Book. This could be determined by the notebooks’ durability, the ability to replace pages within the book, and the ability to acquire new pages to put into the book.