

## Process Paper

Photography was my focus for my Capstone project. Photography was my poison because it allowed me to travel to a new dimension of creativity, open opportunities, relief, and connectivity. Photography is a safe space that truly challenged me to further express my interests. Ultimately, I chose to create a photography portfolio of nature, landscapes, and people, to showcase new beginnings because it reminds me of a new chapter in a book or a transition scene in a film. There's something extraordinarily beautiful about photography when it comes to unfolding and looking at upcoming life.

I chose photography as my craft to share because it allowed me to obtain great awareness of joy in the world around me and through how much work I put into my snapshots. Ways my project addresses SLA's five core values differ in their unique processes. For starters, inquiry. When I received my Christmas camera, I started constructing my Capstone. While in the process, I acquired an excellent knowledge of camera skills and stylistic choices. I explored each lens, filter, and setting. During my learning process, I asked numerous questions about what I'd be getting into, how my product should be presented, what each function of the camera performed, and what lens should be used during a specific target or scene.

In terms of SLA's research core value, I had to research an abundant amount of photography articles, books, websites, portfolios, and reviews. It was stressful and mind-breaking, but I could view how professional photographers and upcoming photographers set up their theme or set, their view of photography, their storyline, their techniques, their journey, and how they balance their work life and personal life. Collaboration was an extremely

important component of my project because I wanted to consume as much information, tips, and advice as much as possible. The people I have collaborated with included my mentor and other staff members at my learning facility. Tips my mentor, Torian Ugworji shared with me were to visit old-generation photography to see how cameras were built then, to focus on how the set-ups were produced and their processes, to visit sites, and read books. A piece of helpful advice Mr. Torian gave to me while I was taking pictures was to focus on how much lighting I let in my images, to focus on how much lighting I wanted in them stylistically, and the aperture.

At the beginning of my Capstone process and journey, I wanted my project to be presented as a website because I thought it would better explain my Capstone. However, I decided to make a portfolio instead, because that would allow me to further explain and show to my audience what I am trying to achieve, as well as the goals I am trying to meet and exceed. I wanted both my project and presentation to be different from the rest and unique. It was a learning yet enjoyable experience due to the fact I had the opportunity to stimulate my creativity. I was ecstatic about my decision, my overall piece, piecing together my last few images and thoughts, and turning them into something to share with the world.

As for the final important core value, reflection. Before, during and after my final project, I had asked myself, my mentor, and other staff members questions. Questions like: how could I have spent more time on my project? Instead of procrastinating on some days, what have I been doing? What do I think went well? What could I have done differently? If I were to restart the project, what could I have changed, added, or thought of? For example, the questions we had to answer in our check-ins every Wednesday were great reflection questions because they caused you to think hard. A question that was my favorite was, “what will you accomplish in your next meeting?”

Obstacles I faced and ran into were finding out my topic, how I was presenting my final product, who was going to be the right mentor for my project, if I was going to have the right amount of information and if I was searching for the right material at that, how long it was going to take for me to finish my portfolio, process paper, and slideshow, and if I was going to turn in every piece on time. Ways I overcame these obstacles were asking for plenty of help, asking for recommendations from different outlets, working on each section chunk by chunk, taking breaks in between, listening to meditation music, and asking a teacher and my mentor to look over my portfolio and process paper. Resources I had tapped into to complete my Capstone were reading books about basic photography, how professional photographers capture their artwork, articles, journals, and websites.

I am most proud of the amount of work, concentration, sleepless nights, laughter and tears, perseverance, pride, and enjoyment I put into this Capstone. My capstone matters because I got to see photography from many points of view and perspectives. I feel as though my capstone will change students', staff's and other people's minds and knowledge about the beauty of a field of art that can change lives and that is as beautiful as photography. What I've learned from this process is that great things take time and loads of patience. I knew from the get-go that I was a steady-hand photo taker but sitting down and having the patience to find the right angle and scene took me to another level of hand steadiness. If I were to do this project again, I would sit down with one or a few other people and create a plan and overview of what should be expected of me, write down or type out an outline of each deadline and what requirement needs to be attended to.

SLA is a better place due to the fact I was a student here because of my sarcastic, wistful, bright yet extremely dark personality, the jokes and laughs I bring to the table, and the smiles I

put on people's faces. My creativity, the snarky comments and feedback and my share in the daily polls in the main office are other reasons why I made SLA a better place. I want SLA to be a place of safety for underclassmen and new underclassmen. A place where the students can express themselves freely and be heard.