

My Interests In Film and Video

Beginning my freshman year at Grand Valley State University, I had a set path in my mind of exactly what I wanted to do within the film and video major. I was going to be a film editor. I had taken the classes in high school that opened my eyes to how to manipulate a story using the art of editing and I thought there was no going back. Of course, I didn't expect myself to stray away from the path I had created for myself so long ago, it just happened.

The combination of general education requirements along with my introductory film classes encouraged me to develop new interests and possibilities for my education. A psychology and sociology classes here and there and I began to fear that I had picked the wrong major. I loved film, but all of these other exciting opportunities were all around me. I declared a Women and Gender Studies minor my sophomore year, unsure of how exactly to use it, but now I believe I have found what to do with these two very different interests.

In studying the ways that our society goes about running, I've noticed that a common theme that continues to reappear in discussions about inequality is media representation for certain social groups. Whether that may mean misrepresentation of a race or nationality, or even just a general under-representation for marginalized groups, this affects people's views, and usually not for the better.

Upon earning a degree in Film and Video with an emphasis in Fiction filmmaking, I hope to have learned the craft of writing for film and television for a very specific purpose. Writers in film and television today hold a great deal of power in swaying public opinion in any direction that they could hope. Many times, this power is

used to overlay classic stereotypes for comedic effect, or just use them because they're all we know. People are becoming more knowledgeable about social justice issues involving race, gender, sexuality, and social classes, and the public is ready for a more accurate portrayal of those they interact with every day.

In addition to my attention to how what an audience sees might be interpreted, I also believe that I will be able to bring another skill to the GVSU film program. Being in a program that requires a large group of people to be on the same page and know exactly what goal we are trying to meet makes good communication an essential part of filmmaking. Over the years of being active in organizations helping children and adults with special needs, the most prevalent being autism. I have over time learned how to communicate ideas well enough for people to really understand. Growing up with an autistic brother has led me to become extremely patient with those who do not at first understand the meaning of my words, so instead, I am able to change the language of my ideas into a way that is easier and more relatable for others to understand depending on their experiences.

This upcoming semester I plan on joining GVTV to put my ideas and technical skills to good use and practice behind the camera, something that I have not been able to do since high school due to a hectic work schedule. I hope to be able to use my knowledge learned from my other classes to help write and produce programs and also learn more about the process of filmmaking on a larger scale outside of the classroom, putting what my professors have taught me to practical use.