

Reflections on the "table of contents" component

- My anthology will be composed of three sections. The first is one that I call a journey through time which will explore time travel. The second I call a journey through space which will be about space travel. The last is called a journey to oneself which will deal with discovery of oneself. Each of these sections will have different texts, like news paper articles, book reviews, chapter excerpts and scholarly articles.
- Making my table of contents wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. After gathering all the texts you want to be a part of your anthology you have to come up with different sections to place them in. The hard part is placing the articles where you think they fit best. My first section ended up being "Indecision." My first article in this section is "Indecisiveness" by Sukanya Ray. I choose this to be the first one because I really liked how Sukanya explained the meaning of indecision. She writes, "For a person who is incapable of taking decisions, the world is harsh, stressful and an unhappy place to live in. We all go through periods of indecisiveness, so it is a common problem. But, when it becomes chronic, it is disturbing and difficult to resolve." For me this statement is one hundred percent true because being so indecisive makes me stress a lot and when I think about it you can notice how unhappy I look.
- I feel like I can actually spend years editing my anthology. The reason to this is because every time I go back and look at my anthology there is always something I want to change or just don't like. I'm a person who always tries to fix things until its the way I want it or at least until I'm satisfied with it.
- I played around on blackboard (where my anthology is posted) until I could figure out how to get the links up and running. I figured out how to get a link turned into a hyperlink which was very helpful because it makes it easier for the reader to just simply click on the link and it would take them directly to that webpage.

Reflections on the "own essays" component

- The essay I wrote myself is named "What do I want to be when I grow up?" I chose to place it under the third section in my TOC because its an example of someone who is indecisive, in this case myself, and the whole point of this third section is for readers to see examples of people who have gone through indecision or are going through it now.
- At first, there was something in my head telling me not to share my story and my father's story to the public because nobody would care about my struggles. However, it is the perfect example for those who are struggling in school and need a reason or a motive to continue their education. I hope to inform those people who gave up on school that it doesn't only take academics for a successful future, but hard work and dedication. My father's story seems like the perfect example to encourage the attainment of a successful life without the completion of a higher education.
- I had eight weeks to work on the anthology and each week I got more research done, and eventually started working on my own essay.
- For the past few years it's been a little hard for me to speak about what I've been through. It was pretty hard for me to talk about my life to anyone without bursting into tears. It was quite therapeutic for me to put my feelings on paper, but to also read about others who have encountered similar situations that I have.

Reflections on the "participation" component

- Week three was the first time we split up into our editorial committees. In this week we had to write a letter informing our committee members about our topic and what help we could use from them. We also greeted them. The following week is when we did research for them based upon what we read in their letters. I looked up what each member asked for about their topic. It was-but-wasn't easy because we all have our own way of looking stuff up that differs from person to person but it also required a lot of reading. I said a lot of reading because we were unfamiliar with their topics.
- The third week of class consisted of the class getting into groups so we could all write letters to each other explaining to our group members what our anthologies are about. After that our group members got to write back giving us links they thought could be useful in the final anthologies.
- There were a lot ways I gathered my texts. The first was going to the QCC writing center. This place was a good way to get help from a professional tutor who knows their work and ways to help people improve their work.
- Even though I had a few articles that I found, I still needed help in finding more articles to use. So I wrote

a letter to my editorial committee to help me find more texts to use for my anthology. With their help, I was able to get more texts that would find the sections I had in place for this project.

- A fellow of classmate of mine managed to find an interesting poem for me about a person who lost their grandmother to cancer. The poem is short but shows two major “stages” of grieving a loved one. The first stage is the actual mourning and sadness and the other stage is accepting the fact that this person is gone.
- I hope that when you read this anthology you will see my main point which is even though comedians are funny and entertaining they do have a softer side that we do not normally see and these excerpts will give you that insight and will hopefully change your perception of these comedians just how it changed mine. I would also like to thank my group members Oliver, Danny, Shalanna, and Natalie for helping me find texts and for also giving me a sense of direction in where I should go with my anthology. I liked the fact that we were able to work as a team because without their help, I do not think I was able to complete my anthology and I do not think that they would have been able to complete their anthology as well if we did not work together on this.

Reflections on their “broad range of exploratory reading” component

- There are endless amounts of writing about gymnastics; the only thing was that it was hard to find the things that I wanted. Since I have been in this sport for almost 14 years now I can tell you first hand everything that you need to know. This had helped me out a lot for the reason that I was able to weed out the good from the bad and the truth from the dishonest articles. It took a decent amount of time to read thoroughly through all of the materials that I had gathered. I had searched for material on many different sites and data bases for hours until I came across the right material.
- Furthermore, deciding which texts to use was a real challenge. It was endless research and the worst part was deciding whether it made the cut or not. I say that because when picking the texts, I imagined myself in the shoes of those individuals. The only thing I didn’t want to do was read a long and boring text which I would lose interest in after the first page. So I chose to put in graphs and videos because some people get the message better through visual aid than those that can read and fully comprehend what they are reading
- I found a very interesting scholarly article while doing my research. It had to do with holding foster care agencies responsible for the abuse and neglect that foster children encounter. The article speaks of 8-year-old Marcus Smith who has to wear a helmet to protect his head after having his skull smashed in by a teenage son of his foster mother. He has a permanent plate in his head and was left with permanent damage to his brain, leaving him with special needs. After this story came to light it became apparent to many that foster agencies weren’t doing their job in protecting foster children.
- In the process of looking for text as well, I was both very touched and heartbroken by some of the stories I came across. They showed me that not only have many people been through some of the same situations as I have, but there are a lot of others who have been through far worse than I have. These really brought me to a humble place and showed me to always appreciate the blessings you’ve been given in life.

Reading Like Writer, or, Audience-Oriented Reading

- Never having done anything editing-related, I learned what it was like to be considered an editor and realized it is just as important a job as the author himself in some cases. It almost felt as if I was connecting pieces to a puzzle and was trying to get the perfect fit. With this so-called puzzle, I hope knowledgeable information will be gathered and used to enlighten readers on a very real and serious topic. The numbers of death per year are only rising and it only seems profitable to learn what you can about the disease.
- Just by the way you organize your sub sections can tell a reader a lot about yourself.
- For that reason alone, I found myself researching texts everybody can relate to and made sure there were many visuals. For instance, the text of famous celebrities with cancer was added in for readers to recognize and make connections with figures they see and hear about on their televisions. It is very easy to find scientific lectures that speak in-depth about cancer, but will the everyday reader leave with information they can use in their lives? In my opinion, no, and that is exactly why my anthology is formatted the way it is. Many find it easy to soak in information with a diagram/visual of some sort, which is why you will also find a handful of educational videos.
- I also spent quite some time picking which articles I thought gave diverse and detailed information about death. A lot of times I ended up removing most of my articles and replacing them with others.
- The one problem I had when I was searching for articles on my topic, I was running into a lot of forum websites, where someone would ask a question on the internet and random people answer them. I wasn’t able to include those in the anthology because they aren’t official articles written by a professor or by an actual worker in the field. After doing enough research though I finally found legit articles and videos written and filmed by professionals.
- The reason why I picked this text was because I want my classmates or other people that will be reading this essay, to be aware of the anti-Semitism that not only is taking place in Europe, but in many other countries too. When I was choosing this video, I was hesitant at first because I did not want anyone to get offended by it if they had different thoughts than I did about this topic.
- This process of creating an anthology was very interesting to me yet it was very frustrating. It was frustrating in terms of where to find texts that comedians have written. The reason why this was hard was because even though some of these comedians have written quite a few books so there was no way that I was able to include an entire book into my anthology, and second it was difficult to find an excerpt of a book that really showcased (highlighted) the author’s (comedian’s) style of writing while at the same time showing some of their humor...Even though the excerpts in the anthology are not too long it gives you a good sense of how these comedians write and their sense of humor.
- Lastly I have “Why It’s ok to be Lost And Confused” by a writer named Therese. I choose this to end my anthology because Therese really inspired me. She seems to have been in the same position as me, not knowing what she wanted to do in life. Therese was lost and confused just like I am now. Her story actually makes me feel like being indecisive may not be a bad thing after all.

