

This is a pre-print version of Megan Adams's webtext "Affective Connections to Place: Digital Storytelling in the Classroom," published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 22(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/22.1/praxis/adams>

### Transcript for "Interview with Alexis"

Meg: So if you could just tell me your first reactions to the project when it first got assigned, what did you think about it? I guess we can start there.

Alexis: Well at first I was very overwhelmed, because I've never done anything with cameras or production or anything like that so I knew I was kind of going to be thrown into it, but I was also really excited, because I like to get involved in the community and I thought that that was a really great way to do that.

Meg: Can you describe what it was like to get out, when we got up really early, I think it was the second week of class we went out to Mr. Metzger's farm, so could you tell me a little bit about that experience for you?

Alexis: Well first of all I got lost, so that wasn't good (laughs), and GPS doesn't work in the country, but it was really great. I grew up in a rural town, surrounded by corn fields, but I never grew up on a farm, none of my family grew up on a farm. I lived in a suburb my whole life, so it was a new experience for me and I think a lot of people look at me and think I am prissy and don't like to do things like that, but in reality I love getting involved. I loved meeting Mr. Metzger, he was such a great guy and he was so fun to talk to. He was excited to take me on his golf cart around the barn and show me his tractors. I think when you communicate with someone like that, it makes it really fun.

Meg: Yeah, and you came for the follow-up visit when we went back to farm to shoot, so you were one of two students that took a camera with you, so you took a lot of initiative. Can you tell me why you did that? I know you explained you like to jump into things, but...

Alexis: Yeah, because I really wanted to learn how to use a camera really well because I didn't have any journalism program in my high school, so I knew that the best way to learn is to just do it. Even though I was a little shaky at it and I was freaking out a little bit, I thought I'll just play around it and he was so nice, I knew he would let me come back. But really besides that, I really liked Mr. Metzger. He and his wife were so friendly, I thought his farm was really pretty and really interesting. I didn't feel like I got enough shots and I knew that when I went back I could get a lot of good footage.

Meg: You did, you did such a good job with that project. So can you tell me what it was like, skipping ahead to when you were editing this digital story, so was that your first time doing that and what was that process like for you?

Alexis: It was my first time editing anything like that, and my first time using a camera or anything like that. It was very overwhelming, because I got a lot of footage and Mr. Metzger talked a lot and he was very interesting, but going through all those sound bites, I didn't even know what a sound bite was when I started, so I didn't know to listen for that stuff, so it took me a long time to go through the footage, it was overwhelming. Overall, I was happy with my project and I think it was a really great first experience and probably why I'm so comfortable with it today.

Meg: Could you talk a little bit more about, I was so interested to talk to you to because following up with you, you went back to do another farming story, so is there any connection there, I don't want to make it up, could you explain that a little bit?

Alexis: In class, when you brought up the farm tour, I was like oh I really want to do that, because there is something about farmers, for some reason, they are just so down to earth and very easy to talk to and so eager to talk to me. You almost think they would be like, no I don't want a camera in here, but they are just so eager to interview with me and tell me all about their farm and their history and so I just knew that I'd love it and they always have such good stories to tell.

Meg: So you're a journalism major...so as you continue on in your studies here and in your career when you think back to this project, do you think that, we know that connection to the community is important so could you talk to that a little bit, if the project helped you realize that, like you said I was scared or I didn't know...

Alexis: Absolutely, because it made more comfortable to talk to people in the community, because I'm not from around here. I'm comfortable talking to people anyway, but when you have a camera it's really different because people are intimidated, so I really learned how to make someone feel comfortable when interviewing them. I just kind of have small talk with them and make them feel comfortable, like for example, Mr. Metzger wasn't that nervous because he knew we were coming with cameras, but when I went to the farm tour, they didn't really expect that I don't think, so then they were nervous, like what questions are you going to ask, like what should I say, so then I just acted like I was talking to them and I got footage of it. So, yeah, I don't know if that answers your question.

Meg: Yeah, it does, so can you tell me for you as a freshman coming into a digital media class, was this project impactful and if it was, why do you think so, and if it wasn't, why do you think it wasn't?

Alexis: It was so impactful for me because I always looked at journalists as they just sit at a desk and they read off of things, I never looked at it as storytelling, so when I got to talk to Mr. Metzger and learn his story I realized that being a journalist I had a lot of power in my job and I could really tell people's stories, like Mr. Metzger who people don't necessarily know about because farming is low and people don't know a lot about them even in a rural community like Findlay. So I'd love to tell just some people's stories like that.