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Cutting Through Art

Back in my freshman year in high school, if you told me that video editing would become my passion, I wouldn't have believed it. It all started with a simple idea. I wanted to show off my gaming skills to my friends. That's when I decided to edit my first video of a video game. Little did I know that decision would change everything. This sensation also goes for most gamers who would like to edit their own videos. Being a video editor is a profession many young people would like to have. For example, a YouTuber can make a fortune while working at home. On top of this, YouTubers are very famous. Through this essay, I will highlight my interest in video editing and how I plan to create my business through this profession. Through my journey towards becoming a video editor myself, I have learned and found a variety of ways I can give back to the field. I became interested in being a video editor because it is my passion, it is an enticing profession, and there are plenty of opportunities, such as creating a small website business.

At first, I just wanted to prove how good I was at the game, but as I started playing with transitions, effects, music, and filters, something clicked inside me. I found myself drawn to the world of video editing in ways I never expected. It wasn't just about the game anymore. It was about creating something new and exciting. So, I expanded my ideas of creating new topics for my future videos. After finishing my first video, I could not stop. I kept editing and editing,

excited to learn more and improve my skills. It became a passion project, something I looked forward to everyday. And before I knew it, five years had flown by, and I was still editing away, even though I had a lot of assignments and studying to do.

Before I stumbled upon video editing, I had no idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I considered becoming a businessman, a mechanic, or even a police officer, but none of those paths felt right. It wasn't until I discovered video editing that everything fell into place. Sure, I dream of having access to fancy software like Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects, but for now, I am sticking to free editing software until I have enough money to purchase professional editing software. It may not have all the cool features for the apps I was using, but it gets the job done, and that is what matters the most.

I started my multimedia journey after finishing high school in Lexington, Nebraska. I decided to apply to the University of Kearney at Nebraska to pursue my multimedia degree. Right after I moved into my dorm, I began researching for a job here to see if there are any that I am interested in. It took me about a month until I found one. I was fortunate enough to meet with a good friend, Moi, at the library. I remember checking out a book for my speech class, and Moi was kind enough to talk to me as he was scanning the book. After checking out my book, he decided to have a little chat with me, trying to get to know me better. I told him my interests, my goals and ambitions, and my major. So when I told him that I was scouting for a job related to video editing, he reached out to someone who was looking for an experienced applicant. Luckily, I got a job at the communications department, where I edited videos, filmed interviews, and events during my first year here at UNK. It wasn't too difficult because I had some experience

from high school. However, I struggled at the beginning because I was trying to understand what exactly UNK wants, so I won't mistakenly mess up.

Going from Lexington High School to UNK's campus was a big change for me. I was excited to learn about things like making videos, taking photos, and designing graphics. I had no idea that UNK's fine arts and communications department would play such a significant role in my trip. Getting the job at the communications department was a big deal for me.

As a freshman, I was responsible for editing videos and filming events. At first, I was nervous, but my supervisor was very supportive and kind. Her name was Steph Gallaway, and she helped me become more confident in my abilities. Every day at the communications department was a chance for me to learn something new, and I got better at using Adobe Premiere Pro and trying out different filming techniques. I remember that I was taking a video production foundations class with Jacob Rosdail, and I was learning a lot of skills and techniques. I was so thankful for that class that I was applying those skills to my job. The job also helped me when I was learning how to edit an interview correctly, and my video class had an assignment where I had to interview a staff member. Unfortunately, I got a 29/30 because I forgot to apply a white balance on my camera, but I enjoyed taking the time to edit my interview video.

In general, I loved capturing life on campus through my camera lens, whether it was student activities, lectures, or events. Working there also helped me connect with different people. I worked with students, teachers, and others in the community. It felt good to be part of a team working towards a common goal. My time working with my supervisor wasn't just about learning technical stuff. It taught me about personal growth, too. I learned how powerful

multimedia can be for telling stories and making a difference in the world. Looking back, my experience at UNK's communications department has been amazing. It helped me grow as a person and learn new skills.

Near the end of my first college year, I was at my friend's dorm, and he was showing me his gym posts on his Instagram where he was lifting weights and showing off his physique. He was asking me if I could film a video for him, and I said yes, excitedly. He showed me a gym montage of an influencer on YouTube and asked me if I could do something similar to that. I was unsure at first, so I asked him to give me some time to watch other gym videos and inspect them. Watching those videos got me more excited because I was able to understand where to put transitions, music, and effects. So, my friend and I got ready to go to the gym at 4:00 a.m. and as we got there, we both were preparing to work on our things. He was warming up his set as I was setting up my camera. After that, I started rolling the camera and began moving around with it, trying to get the right angle so the video could come out right. After filming him at the gym, he dropped me off at my dorm so I could get ready to attend my classes. Later that day, I immediately began working on the gym video because I didn't want to keep my friend waiting any longer. I was cutting clips, asking him what kind of song he would like me to put, rewatching other gym videos to help me as I was editing, and adding things to my project. It took me about 2-3 hours to finish my work, and I was ready to show him my results. Surprisingly, he actually enjoyed it! I was so nervous because I tried my best working on this project, and I was very happy that he posted the video on his Instagram page.

Now that I have been around UNK for a while, I have come up with two careers that I want to pursue after I graduate: videographer or cinematographer. After diving into videos giving

details of their work, I find both jobs pretty interesting. I've seen videos that showcase the incredible work these professionals do. Videographers are like modern-day storytellers. They roam around the city, visiting places like barbershops, restaurants, and businesses, and promote them through their videos. I am amazed by how they combine their filming and editing skills to create captivating content that grabs people's attention. On the other hand, cinematographers work behind the scenes to film and edit movies, series, or shows. I have always been inspired by shows like "Stranger Things" and the incredible work of the people who bring them to life. The effects, transitions, and music used in that show blew me away, and it made me realize the power of cinematography to transport audiences to new worlds.

All of these things I did on campus made me realize something. It made me remember giving up on my channel during my senior year. I created it when I was a freshman in high school, and all I ever did was upload videos of me playing the game. Although it was quite fun editing videos, my channel was nowhere near where I wanted it to be, so I gave up and quit. I was working on that channel for about four years and thought every effort I put into it was a waste. When I entered college, I decided to work on my channel again, but I was trying out a whole different subject because my brother persuaded me to work on a different subject. Not only that, but I was also inspired by some of the creators. And so I wanted to be at their level, but I didn't have enough experience to create that kind of content, but it didn't matter to me anyway, because who knows if my work will pay off or not. And so I began looking more closely at how creators polish their videos. It made me learn how to use tools and when to use them. I began to see great results, and that pushed me even further to create more videos and for a reason not to

give up. So, my channel is growing faster than it was when I was in high school. I think this is like the proudest moment of my life.

Once I achieve my profession, another goal is to create a business through my profession. An example of this would be an online business. This online business could sell items such as merchandise related to my content. My passion opens up career opportunities outside of video editing. Through building a proper brand, my business can flourish into something profitable. Eventually, I would like to create a community where aspiring video editors can share and comment on their work for others to see. I am sure that this potential opportunity could help others who have the same passion as I. As you can see, I would be able to give back to my profession once I establish myself.

And so my journey from gaming to the world of video editing and beyond. It has been an amazing ride so far, and I am excited to see where this path takes me next. Whether I become a videographer, a cinematographer, or continue down the path of video editing, one thing is for sure: I have found my passion, and I am ready to chase my dreams. My passion for video editing started by altering videos to make new content. Through the course of my interest, I decided to pursue a Multimedia degree to expand my opportunities. Once I get my degree, an example of a chance I could seize could be selling merchandise on my website. Video editing is an important part of my life because it is a passion of mine, it is my desired profession, and it is an excellent opportunity for future experiences.