**Reflection**

The final project for this class was a group effort. Each group consisted of 4 students working together to create one final product. The project was a magazine website consisting of several pieces of literature from each one of us. We each choose our own inspired topic to write about. The title of the magazine is H.I.C.C., which stands for Homelessness Immigration Cyberbullying Children of drug addicted parents. These are the four topics we each chose to write about. Within the magazine, you’ll find a timeline of Mother Terresa’s life, an audio presentation on cyberbullying, a flash memoir on immigration, and a report with pictures on children of drug addicted parents.

The focus of this project was to inform the public of social issues that most of society is unaware of, but that are taking place right on our doorsteps. We wanted to inform the public of these issues and teach people how they can individually make a difference. We felt it would make the greatest impact if were to write to the public as our general audience. Because so many people are uninformed, we wanted to make as many people as possible aware of these issues.

To do this, we worked together as a group of four to bring our writing skills together. We each chose a social issue to talk about and a format to write in. Through lots of revising and peer reviews, were finally satisfied with how our work matured. After we each had our own final drafts of the pieces we had chosen, we organized this website together to inform the public of these local and national issues.

I personally decided to write about homelessness and panhandling because of a memory that came to my mind when I was asked to think of a social issue to write about that we face as a community, nation or world. I give an account of this memory on our H.I.C.C. magazine website in my Flash memoir piece called The Man on The Corner. My mom and I saw a beggar on the corner who we gave money to that we thought was homeless. Read the paper on our website to find out how we later found out the true identity of this man and who he was famously known as. Ever since this memory took place all those years ago, I have continually been confronted by homeless people and beggars asking for money. This lead me to do more research and organize what I had found into these literature formats.

Organizing these pieces into a professional format has helped me grow to be a better writer in several ways. After multiple revisions and peer reviews, I’ve learned the correct way to address and inform a selected audience in a fun yet proper manner. Using visual aids and inserting reliable sources is a great example. I’ve learned to be more literate in my grammar and spelling and in the ways I use my words. Also, after researching this information I have come to be wearier of people standing on the corner begging for money. I have decided that instead of giving these people cash to try to help them, I will donate to local charities and homeless shelters from now on. I have even included links in my papers to some of the local charities here in Salt Lake City that readers can click on and donate if my piece has helped them have a desire to do so.

The process of finding the information and correctly formatting these pieces was no easy road. [The flash memoir](https://lightbulbsandwitch.wixsite.com/hiccmagazine/homelessness) was the first piece I wrote. At first, I wasn’t exactly sure what it was supposed to look like and I didn’t know the purpose behind it writing it. I reviewed some examples of other writer’s flash memoirs and was able to see a clearer picture of what I wanted my paper to look like. The purpose was to point out a local social issue in my community, and it was formatted to paint a picture of the memory in the reader’s eyes.

The purpose of [the timeline](https://lightbulbsandwitch.wixsite.com/hiccmagazine/homelessness) was to show readers that just giving money to people is not always the best way to help the poor, but serving them with love and aid is possible too. I enjoyed putting it together because I was able to learn about a marvelous woman who made a huge impact in so many homeless and hungry people’s lives. Her name is Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhi, or more famously known as Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The easier part of this report was to inform the readers of who she was and what she did. The more challenging part came when I decided to transform this piece into a timeline. I had to decide what major life events I wanted to include in the timeline and what events had to be left out. It was challenging to insert the information into the timeline itself too, but I’m happy with how it turned out.

The last piece I decide to include in this magazine was my [information effect piece](https://lightbulbsandwitch.wixsite.com/hiccmagazine/homelessness). Here, I found it difficult to find reliable sources to collect information from. I also had to revise how I formatted quotes and sources I included in the body of my report. After much revision and help from experienced writers, I received some tips on how to better format and include the sources into my report. Not italicizing the quotes, mentioning local charities, and using pictures and headings were some great tips for example of how I could improve my paper.

I learned a great deal about writing this semester. I plan to use these new learned writing skills as a platform to learning new ways to become a better writer. I used my previous writing skills and knowledge to be able to have a basic knowledge of how to write these papers, and so I will do the same in the future. I’m grateful for this new knowledge because now I know how to inform a selected audience of a concern and help them to be moved towards performing a specific action. Also, I feel more confident in my ability to paint a picture in a reader’s mind of what I want them to see also. Using metaphors and descriptive language helps to achieve this goal. Creating that timeline taught me how to lean about someone and then turn around and write about who they are and why they are important and why the reader should know this also. Very important knowledge if I feel the need to tell a group of people about someone important. Overall, I enjoyed taking this class and feel glad to have done so. I was happy to have had a great instructor too.

Thanks for reading; I hope you enjoyed it.