

## **1. Thinking about the process and product of your Capstone, reflect upon what you are most proud of and what you might do differently if you were to complete a similar project in the future.**

The part of my project that I am most proud of, is the idea to create a website. I wanted to do something different that I could use in the future. So I decided to create a website that shows all of my hard work from 4 years. It allows me to showcase all of the different arts that I have pursued through our high school. I am incredibly proud of the product. For the first half of the year, I was extremely nervous about what I would be able to achieve. This capstone project truly reflects on all of the wonderful things I have accomplished throughout my high school career and I want that to show.

The process was where I had struggled with the most in this overall project. I had such a large idea and concept that I wasn't sure where or how I should start. So I had put it off for a long period of time due to stress and being so busy with other projects. It kept being pushed off and I had tried so many different things to get the project to come to life and I couldn't figure it out. With website fees, having to buy domains, and even making sure that I was meeting the criteria for what would make my capstone eligible. After consulting with 3 different mentors, I finally came up with a game plan that would work and successfully make me eligible. These weren't the only two things I had in mind when creating my website. I wanted to have a product that I was proud of and that would be useful for me as I enter adulthood and continue to do theatre down the line. After hours of fighting weebly, paying more money than I wanted to, and fighting google drive, I now have a digital portfolio that I am extremely proud to show off. It encompasses everything that I have worked so hard on.

Throughout this experience, the only thing that I wish I had done differently was face the stress and struggle sooner. Due to me pushing it off, I was fighting the clock in order to finish my website in time. Which had led to even more stress that could have been avoided to begin with. Secondly, I would have been more specific with what I was wanting to do for my capstone. In my initial capstone proposal, I focused more on the actual resume and portfolio side of things and lacked to express that I also wanted to dive into the emotional impacts that theatre had on me through the years. So later I had to resubmit my proposal to better describe what I was wanting to create.

## **2. Explain how your life experiences are reflected through your project.**

My life experiences are clearly displayed throughout my entire project, start to finish. My website for me is vulnerable in a way. It has my entire life on it for the world to see. How theatre has helped me, what it's done for me, how long I've been doing it, etc. It has details from 6 months old all the way to the end of high school. Which is beautiful to me, because it truly showcases how big of an impact performing has had on me. It is who I am and who I am becoming, and I wouldn't change that for the world. My website follows something like a timeline. From 6 months to 18 years old. This project shows more than words can truly show how important the stage is to me. It's my entire life and more. I have worked endless hours for everything I have now. This project is my heart, soul, and bones displayed into words on a website. Even then, it can't do justice to what I feel.

### **3. Thinking about the Extra-curricular hours you completed, reflect upon what you learned through the experiences and/or how you have been impacted as an artist?**

Extra-curricular hours have taught me a lot about how to be an artist in the way of growing as an actor and singer but it has also helped me as an artist with personal life skills I will need later in life. It's taught me a lot of commitment, hard work, being grateful, and emotional endurance. I have put endless hours into my extra-curriculars and that is the entire reason I have these skills. Which has taught me that if I am committed and I work hard enough then I can do anything I put my mind to. It has taught me to appreciate the things I work on, it makes them more meaningful when you have put your blood, sweat, and tears into a project for it to work out and see it on the main stage or hear it sound beautifully. Which blends into my strength of emotional endurance. There has been time after time, that I have wanted to give up. Yet, I pushed through and managed my stress so that I could keep going. I am so thankful for all the things after school activities have taught me.

### **4. How is your life positively impacted by the arts?**

No words or actions can describe how the arts have impacted me. They have done more beyond impact me but my soul and bones. The arts have bewitched me and consumed my being. I can not describe how they make me feel. Performing leaves me with a feeling of permanence and acceptance I didn't know was possible. It connects me back to myself and the feeling of being alive. When I am on the stage and I feel those warm bright lights hit my face, I am home. The arts are more than an action but a feeling and emotional connection. I am human and I am here when I perform. Even though I am playing a character or singing a song from another's perspective, I feel more like myself than when I am living my everyday life. The passion I have grown over years and years of hard work is beyond words. Therefore making it hard to answer this question, all I can say is that it has changed me *for good* and I wouldn't change a thing about it.

## **5. How do you plan to include artistic experiences in your future after high school?**

I am very proud to say that all of my artistic experiences are leading to my future after high school entirely. I will be going to NAU for their BA program and minoring in my backup plan. Focusing on my dreams, everything I have worked so hard for during high school. Theatre has taught me so much outside of acting styles, emotion, and projection. It has helped me grow on a personal level. I've grown so much confidence and love for myself through theatre. Instead of being the shy kid who wouldn't talk to anyone she didn't know, I can meet new friends at social gatherings. I have clear public speaking that helps me communicate my needs. I've learned that I don't need to be quiet and act like someone else for people to like me. I love the person I have become because of theatre. I have a better emotional understanding for others and can help others because of what I have learned. Outside of schooling and theater I do pinup, I have used most of my artistic experiences for pinup. I help teach the younger kids the skills I need to be successful. I couldn't be more grateful and thankful for the skills I now have. I think that all of the experiences and opportunities will help me with auditioning and getting a job. I will even be continuing to use these skills far into my adulthood and future careers. Even as far as after college, my overall career path is working for the Disney Company as one of their character performers. Ever since I was a kid I had so much passion for performing and I knew this was what I wanted to do for a lifetime. Plus, the Disney Company is extremely important to me, it has always been such a fun and inviting place for me. I vividly remember how happy and thrilled I felt knowing that my favorite characters were calling me their "friend" and talking to me. I am going into this career path that I wanted to give children the same feeling and experience that I received. All of my artistic skills have led to that very thing. I want to make kids happy and tell them a story they will love and remember.

## **6. What advice would you give an incoming freshmen about studying the arts to help them make the most of their experiences while in high school?**

Some advice that I would give to incoming freshmen is to not listen to people who put you down. In my high school experience, I received a lot of discouraging comments about how theatre kids act, how it's an unrealistic job in the future, and that it was too competitive to be a part of. It put a lot of weight on me and made me struggle for a short period of time with having hope that I could make a career out of this. I personally, am so thankful that I did not listen. I did not let it affect my experience in high school and I don't want it to affect theirs.

To help the freshmen make the most out of their experience, I would highly recommend having fun and taking advantage of every single opportunity you are given. Even if it is hard, time consuming, or you don't think it would be helpful for you in the future. Before my senior year, I would just do what seemed interesting and I wasn't getting super successful results. During my senior year I decided that I wanted to be doing more and that has led to even more opportunities to do things that I never thought I would be able to. Which has led to me having so much fun. I enjoy performing and the arts more than I ever have. So my overall advice would be have fun and seize every opportunity.