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Personal Reflection Essay

In this Personal Reflection Essay, I will analyze my learning experience in pursuing a Humanities MA degree and discuss some of the ways in which I have grown personally and academically from my studies at American Public University. Before I applied for this master's degree in humanities, I obtained a master's degree in public history which I find important to mention because of the circumstances which transpired in 2020—the year I graduated. The semester that I was supposed to find an internship for entering the field of study was the same year that every museum and historic site was shut down, forcing me to come up with an alternative practicum, which ultimately became an online exhibit. The opportunities offered in the public history field have still not improved since the global shut-down, as I just witnessed a news report showing a robot conducting a museum tour—an ominous glimpse into the future regarding employment opportunities. However, I feel that some of the classes taken at this university prepared me for opportunities available online.

After being alerted to the fact that there may not be an abundance of jobs available for me at the end of my practicum, I refocused my efforts and found ways to commodify the knowledge that I acquired in all my studies at American Public University by transforming the information into economic opportunities. My initial decision to pursue another degree after I graduated in 2020 was to improve my writing skills and ability to comprehend complex ideas expressed by the great thinkers throughout history. I was also happy to learn that the humanities program

offered courses that included the production multi-modal presentations. The development of various presentations in the classes was essential to my future plans to create an online video channel focusing on educating the public and students by creating short informative video productions about human achievements in the arts and sciences. The classes that I attended in the humanities program have supplied me with ample subject matter to illustrate the evolution of humanity by creating short informative documentaries that I hope will help the viewers learn and remember significant facts related to the humanities.

Initially I did have ideas of becoming a scholar, however, the more I learned, the further away that goal drifted out of my reach. I believe that to become a scholar, one would have to obtain a doctor's degree and become an expert by focusing on one specific field of study. My first goal was to concentrate on researching the early 19th century history in Philadelphia and write books. But between the time I graduated in 2020 and the time I started classes for this degree in the humanities, I realized that I need to keep up with new ways of disseminating knowledge. I firmly believe that teaching through various social media platforms combined with launching a smart marketing strategy is key to utilizing a degree in something most people do not care about.

It is now my goal to help people care about knowledge and human history and I hope to achieve this through various multi-modal storytelling techniques while maintaining integrity and virtue. The main lesson that I have learned through my studies in the humanities were the lessons that the Enlightenment writers strongly recommended—to disseminate knowledge truthfully by making virtue the primary concern. I would like to to accomplish this in a way that people will enjoy and hopefully remember, which is critical to learning if you desire personal and social growth in a society.