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Final Submission: Professional Reflection

It's a very surreal moment when you get to this point in your degree...the capstone. At first, I was intimidated by that word, capstone. For some reason, I imagined myself in a library, surrounded by mountains of books (not such a terrible thing for a writer), with myself holding on to the book I wrote during the course. When I look back at this silly notion, as that is not physically possible to create a published, hardcover book in eight weeks, I realized that this course was the preparation for that very endeavor. All of the courses leading up to the capstone have been steppingstones, building me up to this point. Metaphorically speaking, it's almost like the courses are the different layers of a cake and the capstone is just the icing on top. The knowledge and skills that have been acquired throughout the courses and capstone at SNHU have been undeniably indispensable.

Getting a degree in Creative Writing and English has been the most beneficial decision I have made toward the career I am hoping to acquire some day. The courses brought to light the many aspects of literature and writing that I love best, but on a whole new level. I was able to dive deep into novels and analyze the many components of what makes them unique, understand the importance of Shakespearean writings, but also explore its many dark themes, and discover that I am infatuated with writing fiction when before I started this degree, I only dabbled in nonfiction children's books. Also, learning the ins and outs of a query letter and proper pitch will be of utmost importance when I am ready to submit a piece to be published. Each course ties in the very heart of literature, where it came from, how it has developed, and where it is going. Excelling in each course, really prepared me for the capstone, where I was able to take my newfound knowledge and apply it to a significant piece of writing. I felt equipped with the tools

that enabled me to complete the capstone successfully. Following this new career path hasn't been easy, but it has been one of the most rewarding decisions I have ever made. Making my way through this degree at SNHU has only solidified my love for a career in writing and editing.

What I have enjoyed the most throughout the Creative Writing and English program was the constructive feedback and constant encouragement given, whether from my professors or peers. Specifically, the workshops were the most eye-opening, thought-provoking, and humbling. Throughout the extensive workshops, not only was I given useful feedback on my writing, but I was also able to use my knowledge to help others enhance their writing. During the process of providing feedback to others, I realized I was benefitting, as more attention was paid to my pieces. Acknowledging my strengths and weaknesses, applying suggestions, and then reflecting on everything as a whole, was extremely beneficial. This has made me a stronger writer, as it enabled me to step outside of my thought process and look at my writing through a different lens—my audience. As a writer this is crucial. If we are to be successful, we need to be open to criticism and then be able to take that criticism and turn it into something tangible. That tangible piece is what I aspire to complete—a fictional novel that I can someday get published. Focusing on a career that involves book editing is also a goal. The workshops have affirmed my love for critiquing and editing books and has shown me the strengths I possess. My only hope is that I can create authentic pieces that captivate my readers and aid, other ambitious authors, in their future writing endeavors.