

# Student Comments

## JOUR 446: Advanced Visual Journalism

### Student Comments, Spring 2013

*"Our team has set out to create a website that will allow the Ferndale Senior Activity Center to attract a larger audience, as well as offer its existing clientele an online resource for donating, finding services, and engaging in the center's activities. Understanding this duality of audience has created an interesting challenge that requires us to conceptualize multiple representations of our community partner."*

**Daniel Pickard**

Community Partner: Ferndale Senior Activity Center

*"I feel as if I have been gathering tools while I have been in college, learning different ways to communicate, but I have rarely been given the opportunity to examine the real-world effectiveness of these tools. So many times in journalism, we talk about "the audience," and I have always viewed them as a vague mass of people who may or may not be viewing my work. This project has been one of my first opportunities to really meet "the audience" and to consider their habits and needs. I think it can feel like we sometimes operate in a vacuum, that Western is somehow set off from the larger Bellingham community and that the work that we do here will have little impact on the lives of those surrounding us. It's dangerous to do journalism, or any work involving communication, under those types of assumptions. I will remember the lessons I have learned on this project. This project has taught me the importance of actually understanding the community you are attempting to communicate with, and it will change the way I approach projects in the future."*

**Kylie Wade**

Community Partner: Ferndale Senior Activity Center

*"My work with Growing Veterans offers an enriched opportunity and has taught me lessons that a classroom setting can't. Although the journalism classes I have taken taught me the skills necessary for the field, none of them has actually placed me in the professional world. The service-learning project is something I support thoroughly. I feel that I am actually using my education in a way that contributes to the community. Rather than just learning about what we will be doing as professionals, we're actually doing it."*

**Sanae Kato**

Community Partner – Growing Veterans

## Student Comments, Fall 2011

*"Out of this experience, we learned much about video production as well as working within the realistic confines of client needs, location shortcomings, and difficult subject interactions. Now, we will be able to adapt to many environments that challenged us previously. We have expanded our multimedia journalist toolkit, which will help us serve both our community as well as future employers. Another skill we learned was negotiating between our expectations for a piece and a client's creative direction. This was not always at odds, but figuring out how to make sure we accomplished everyone's objectives was a valuable experience. Similarly, presenting our work and defending it was useful. By showcasing the work in multiple stages, we also learned the value of the iterative process in creating a piece we could all feel strongly about."*

**Hope House Team**

## Student Comments, Spring 2011

*"My service learning experience as a member of the journalism department at WWU has been incredibly valuable. Working with a community partner beyond the walls of Western has truly confirmed that the skills I have acquired during my schooling are sought by members of the outside community, and that my degree will be applicable to "real-world" employment scenarios. Seeing the enthusiasm that others have for the skills and services I am able to offer has left me with a determined attitude to find a place in the corporate world where my qualities can be utilized."*

**Shea Taisey**

Community Partner – Allied Arts Thrift Shop

*"Service-learning classes are the best preparation for the "real world" after graduation. Being able to apply what we've learned to a tangible project is both stressful and rewarding."*

**Sars Richardson**

Community Partner – Allied Arts Thrift Shop

*"I have really enjoyed working with a community partner through the service-learning project. We are not just students at Western anymore, but are actively helping the community."*

**Samantha Sorden**

Community Partner – Sisu website

*"Although the idea of working for a real-world client was intimidating and challenging at times, there is a true reward in finding out your client's goals and helping to accomplish them."*

**Carey Rose**

Community Partner – Allied Arts ArtMap