

Titilayo Sanusi

My Last Journal:

It's week three and a Wednesday. This is my last week and I only have two days left. I really didn't think this day would come...Not like that but I mean not so soon. I came in on a Sunday not knowing a soul. Then, I ended up in a single room forcing me to venture out and "touch somebody's hand." I did meet a few people on the college tour, but they weren't going to be in my classes. All I remember was going to bed thinking tomorrow I have to take a college class, with really intelligent people, I don't know how to get to class, who will I talk to, and ohh my goodness I have to sleep in total darkness alone.

The first day of class we started something I had never heard of a type of multimedia development called MicroWorlds. Never had I experienced having to learn for myself and having no friends in the class to feel lost with. Another interesting thing was that I made mistakes. That just wasn't in my program, I had come to conquer. I learned over a couple of days that this would be a challenge. I finally made a square controlling a turtle after many attempts and realized this is what the course would be like. Like Aaliyah sings, "dust yourself off and try again." However I learned this wasn't a bad thing.

Then, we experienced using what we had just learned to create an animated story. Not as easy as it sounded, I learned what it meant to have "troubleshooting" problems. I couldn't do this, or that, or this and that. I learned to learn how to: first, find people to help me, trust my ability, make mistakes, and truly use trial and error processes. I did finally create a story that was quiet good. Later, we had to take some constructive criticism from our classmates. Which I handled well and used to create a final project that was great. Something I had never done before accomplished in weeks!!(A little sarcasm) I also started to answer discussion threads; although it didn't work as a discussion I got the feel. I had the chance to express myself on many topics, see others thoughts and see how what I wrote might have affected others. Through the discussions I learned what browsers were affective, about my netiquette, and how web sites are evaluated.

In this class I had the chance to create a maze or game. Choosing the maze, I created it in about a day or two. I was very proud of myself especially because when others saw it they asked for my help, advice, and criticism. During all of this I also worked on a group animated story. I was put into a group with two people I didn't know. Well, all I'll say is our story ended up great due to the effort of staying after class to pick up on my groups slack because I wanted my three credits. We added transitions to ours pages, sound, and it even worked alone!!! It was beautiful.

We also worked with this application called RoboLab. This was the most fun thing for me. We were assigned new groups after working on group animated stories. Again two people I didn't know. Lucky they knew how to work in groups effectively. We brainstormed, built, reconstructed, and succeeded. Through out our preparation for our challenges our robot broke so many times. Now, I can laugh about it, but it almost made

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us quit. We find out what we were each good at and put it together. We WON our challenge. YESSSSSSSSS!!!

More Things were happening during all of this too. We had guest speakers who told us about opportunities offered in life. Courses we should take, who we should network with, how to behave in college classes, and what job are available through going into Education Technology. We took field trips, some more related to the course than others. These showed us what we could be doing in the future. We saw people who loved their jobs and were in the education or tech. Field. We learned about composites, wind tunnels, standardization, clean rooms, and geography...that were all related in some way to 21<sup>st</sup> learning skills.

The only thing left to explain is our assignments. They were kind of like markers that showed how far we had progressed. Yes, there were enough. They did stress many of us out because they were added while we were doing all of the above. I believe it's called multitasking. We wrote analysis, made charts, wrote journals, and even evaluated software. These three weeks were hectic, stressful, and demanding; however they were real. We learned to learn, how many people can say that. I saw things I never had seen before and learned things about myself. I saw that course loads can be demanding. Everything I talked about in my journals including this one are true. Even outside of class we had assignments due, curfews, seminars, etc. But I did leave with more than I came with. I can honestly say this course has changed my life.