

Reflection Paper

I was first introduced to Adobe products my sophomore year of high school in an AV class where I learned how to use Premiere, Audition and After Effects to make videos. I found these programs incredibly interesting and critical to my filmmaking career and have had a Creative Cloud subscription ever since. Prior to this course I had always wondered what the other Adobe products were and what they were used for, but I never felt a real need to learn them. I honestly didn't know what I was getting myself into when I signed up for this course but I was excited after I read the syllabus and found out we were going to learn Adobe InDesign and that I was going to put my Creative Cloud subscription to good use.

Although I was enthusiastic I was also fairly nervous at the beginning of this course because I'm not a very technologically inclined person and was fearful that this program would be too advanced for me, but in our first project when we were becoming acquainted with the program learning how to do shapes, fills and strokes I felt more at ease. Since then I have learned many useful techniques and ideas in this course that I can take with me and use in future projects and career.

Learning how to use Adobe Indesign takes a lot of time pointedly devoted to working through the processes and educating myself by watching the lecture videos and reading the chapter handouts and book. This became increasingly difficult for me after being booked on two TV shows back to back. Working 14 hour days 5 days a week I quickly fell behind on my course

work. That is what has been the most challenging for me in this course; not having enough time to be able to really give it my all to fully learn and understand the program.

To get really good at Indesign you have to not only really understand and master the basics, you have to keep practicing so you don't forget. Each technique you learn in the program builds onto the next one, with each chapter I have methodically added skills to my repertoire. I've learned an array of techniques this semester and the ones that have impressed me the most that I think will prove useful in future projects have been the most simple basics. Typesetting techniques such as changing typefaces, point size, and leading, inserting glyphs, and centering type. Learning how to create multi-column text frames, raised and dropped caps, how to place, scale, and crop images. These basics make all the difference and without knowing them you can't really get much out of the program.

The principle "type first, format second" left a big impact on me because I'm always trying to format as i go which ends up proving to me more difficult and time consuming.

I cannot believe I went so long without knowing that Typekit existed. Before I had just used www.dafont.com to find new fonts to use in the title and credits in my films. Now using Typekit I can instantly load typefaces for either web or print, while working in InDesign. Because the different Adobe creative cloud applications integrates seamlessly with each other I can easily find a font I love in type kit and use it to make a poster in InDesign and then use the same font in the credits of my film in Premiere.

Hidden characters made a big impact on me. Hidden characters made it so much easier to notice simple mistakes like having an extra space between words. Not only do hidden characters show the details of how the document was constructed, they tell even more about my typesetting abilities

Indesign gives me so much more freedom than Word and Google Docs to really create the document I desire and knowing InDesign can help set me apart from other candidates for jobs. After taking this course I look at things a lot differently now, really noticing font choice and layouts in posters and flyers. It also made the Saturday Night Live sketch “Papyrus” even more hilarious.

New skills take time to develop and as I master the basics, I will continue to add even more techniques to my repertoire. I learned a lot from the course and will continue to use this software in the future - designing posters for my short films and flyers for auditions.