

I want to become a better writer.

The first two weeks of class, I focused on gaining my footing in a relatively unfamiliar format of work. I went through the motions of completing the assigned work and readings in the beginning stages of the class that was comparably more linear than the work to come. The sixth of January was the first day I ventured into unknown territory by spending the class time brainstorming potential ideas for my capstone project. After a discussion with Meyer I figured out that I did not want to pursue a potentially more resume-suitable project for this class, and that I would rather do something I could expect myself to be intrinsically motivated to do. This line of reasoning led me to choose to create a chapter/prologue in the fantasy genre in the larger effort to become a more well read and a more eloquent writer.

Weeks three and four marked the solidification of my project and the beginning of my research towards becoming a better writer. The first resource I perused was the lectures that Brandon Sanderson released for free online. Throughout the entire project, Brandon Sanderson served as a source of inspiration and knowledge, through both his lectures and his books that I used to study prose and how to format them. Weeks five and six were spent working on my defining phase document and experimenting with a new style of note taking that I could turn in for my digital evidence in the weekly milestone document. I also set up a time to talk with Liv, a camp counselor that I had become friends with and the person who would become a primary mentor for my writing throughout the duration of this project and beyond.

Week seven was spent learning about the revision process of books. I took notes about the concept of alpha and beta readers, and what information they could give that is most useful to authors. I used this knowledge to prepare questions for Liv that would be effective as a means to my end. The concept of interpretive questions, where I give the reader an open question such as “what is the motivation of character x,” stuck with me through the project and eventually made their way into the questionnaire I would give to my beta readers.

Weeks six and seven were spent working on my planning phase document, solidifying my schedule and copying the info that I could from my defining phase.

Later in those weeks, Brandon Sanderson released a kickstarter that grossed sixteen-million dollars in one day, and would go on to break the record for highest funded kickstarter of all time. I spent the rest of that week brainstorming the potential effects this would have on the publishing industry. Weeks 10/11 were difficult for me, I spent the three and a half

days within this period finishing then revising my planning phase document which I was having trouble with. I received some early feedback from Meyer that would help me complete the document that week. I also spent time reading some of the most impactful chapters I could remember from my favorite books in order to study why they were so potent, and what makes a good chapter.

The next week I spent completing little tasks from my planning phase so that I could focus on writing over spring break. I got some small things out of the way such as writing example passages that I used to practice writing within the terms of my magic system. In week 12, I wrote three outlines for potential prologues and narrowed it down to one option that was my favorite. The rest of the week was devoted to making progress on the prologue. In week thirteen I made large strides to completing the doing phase document and I spent more time working on my prologue. I solidified the proper nouns I would use to denote the fantastical elements of the prologue's setting.

Weeks fourteen and fifteen were spent completing my prologue with critique from Liv so that it was ready to send to beta readers. Subsequently I created a google form my readers could fill out as they read, and I used that feedback to fix any discrepancies between my intentions while writing and their interpretations. I sent the final capstone project into the dropbox on April 25th then I spent the next two days chilling and beginning project review.