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Website Reflection  
1 April 2015

### Becoming "Papa"

*Becoming "Papa"* has been a labor of love from the very beginning. I set out on this project with the intention of following the rigorous guidelines that used to be given to me in my multimedia journalism classes: remain objective, have backups of everything, talk to everyone that could lend a hand in telling the story, and have a clear objective for your final product. In addition and more technical to these requirements I tried to: make sure my audio was clean, I knew there should be b-roll footage to cover all of the talking points, and that footage should be aligned properly with the words being said (we called this the "see dog say dog" rule). As this project went on, I quickly realized that I was in a bit over my head, and needed to step back and remember that this was not a semester long project and I did not have a partner to help me get all of the footage I desired. With that realization, I was able to move on and become happy with the outcome.

When I was designing my website, I knew that I wanted to tell the story of my grandfather as he became my "Papa." Essentially, what did his life look like as he grew up as a child, as he became an adult, as he became a father, and then a grandfather? One of the difficulties here was to not use the past tense when it wasn't necessary; my grandpa is still very much alive and hopefully will be for quite some time! To get past this, I had to use multiple forms of media including video footage to show him now, audio to get the majority of the story, photos to show the past, and text to explain things from the present. While I do maintain agency over the project as its creator and the voice behind the text, this was still very much a work of collective intelligence. I had to interview my grandfather and use his voice, I pulled in my aunt and my mom to gain perspective on what was being said (and my journalism background says that if a party is mentioned you should try to get that party's point of view), and I also needed family members to help me collect the photos that I used. There are currently about 50 more in the queue on Wix to be added to the "Family Scrapbook" page.

The overall design and aesthetic of the site was intentionally clean and simple. While it was tempting to add graphics and background images, my grandfather is a simple guy and I wanted that to resonate. I also wanted the focus to remain on the subject and not my design choices. For this, I did not use a template. Everything that you see I put together on my own. I did not want to purchase a separate domain for this site since I already own one and pay for it monthly, but I also did not want to have the ads and limits that come along with free site hosting. To work around this, I linked to the project from the multimedia page of my current portfolio and made all of the new pages for the project hidden from the main menu on my current site. I hid the header and footer and created a new header for the new pages to give the illusion of it being its own website.

On the final page of the site, the "Family Scrapbook," I give the option for family members to send in photos to be added. This is something that I hope will begin happening in the future so that this can go beyond a classroom project and something that can be used revisited by my family for years to come.