

For your final paper, assemble and revise some of your five reflection essays into a larger document, adding an introduction and conclusion. Write a minimum of 2500 words on one of the topics below:

1. **Tech Constrains Expression:** Digital media technologies shape and/or constrain what it is possible to express with digital media in ways that are important for users, creative professionals, and/or society.
2. **The Open Web:** There is currently a debate among digital media professionals about the future of open vs. proprietary digital media technologies, sometimes called “The Open Web” debate. Explain the debate with examples, explain why it matters, and take a position.
3. **Form vs. Content:** Explain why the distinction between form/presentation/layout and content/meaning/semantics is so important and controversial for some professional digital media developers *and* some “platform” companies that do business on the Web.
4. **Analog vs. Digital:** Explain how the shift to digital computing is transforming media by comparing digital technologies to their analog counterparts (or precursors). Include the concept of “convergence.”
5. **Not Just Technical:** Using examples from class, show how what many people think are *technical* parts of digital media are also shaped by *economic, social, and/or political* decisions.
6. **Audiences:** Discuss the idea that digital media technologies are designed with particular audiences in mind, and that this shapes the digital media that are produced. Include *both* who is expected to a media producer or computer programmer and who is expected to receive/consume/purchase digital media content.
7. **You Choose:** A topic of your choice with instructor approval.

Genre Option:

- If you wish, you can **select a genre** for your paper other than the implied genre of “final paper for a college class.” E.g., you can specify that your paper is a letter to/from someone, a memorandum inside a company or other organization, a feature article in a tech or art magazine, etc.

Requirements:

- Please **state your topic** (and optionally your genre) at the top of your paper.
- The topics are written vaguely (e.g., “technology”) but your paper should be **specific**: which specific technology?
- Select material from your reflection essays to include **that supports your argument**. If your text doesn’t support your final paper argument, don’t include that text or essay. (Or revise it until it does.)
- **No outside research is required** for this paper. As for your prior essays, you should support your claims with evidence, but this can come from your assignments or assigned readings/lectures.
- Optionally, if it helps you to include outside material that was not covered in class to make a particular point or to obtain a perfect example, feel free to do so. As is always true at the University of Michigan, you may not include material taken from assignments in other courses.
- You **must revise** your prior reflection essays to do well on this assignment, adding connecting material and improving your text your text to remove errors, ensure the final paper has a logical structure, a smooth flow, and a consistent tone, genre and voice.
- When you’re finished, a new reader of your final paper should not be able to tell that the text was assembled from multiple other papers. In other words, **no Frankenstein papers**.
- Reflection essays asked you to write in different genres (e.g., a memorandum), but the final paper **should have one genre**. The final paper must have a consistent tone, genre, and voice.
- If you co-authored text for your project reflection paper, you *can* include the text that you wrote in your final paper if you wish. **You cannot include text that you did not write**.
- There is no opportunity to revise the final paper.
- We will not meet during the final exam period; this paper counts as the final exam for this course.

Notes (these are the same notes that were included in every reflection essay prompt in this class):

- It may help you to include additional examples or evidence from the Web or readings, but be sure to **properly quote and cite** external material.
- There is **no one right answer** to this prompt: there are many strong arguments that could be made here. Your creativity and reasoned judgement about this situation are very much encouraged, as long as you use course material and it is clear that you understand what these course concepts mean.
- There is no need to go over **length**; it is entirely possible to obtain an “A” grade in exactly the minimum number of words.
- Feel free to **paste screen shots** (or images, or URLs) if necessary to help the reader understand your examples, but these do not count toward the length requirement.