

Reflecting

Evaluate the quality of the product/outcome against their criteria

Specification 1

6 / 8

I chose to give specification 1 – My Photography BlogSpot must have 8 images that capture the colour and activity of the Parap Markets – 6 out of 8. The reason for this is my Photography BlogSpot captures the colour of the Parap Markets in an excellent manner, however the activity of the Parap Markets is lacking. To improve against this specification I could have taken a ladder with me and captured some high angle photos of the people moving throughout the markets using a slow shutter speed to capture the movement of the Parap Markets in an excellent manner.

Specification 2

8 / 8

I chose to give specification 2 - My Photographs need to demonstrate my developing understanding and application of the photography elements of perspective, composition, colour balance and lighting – 8 out of 8. The reason for this is that my photographs show an excellent demonstration of perspective, composition, colour balance and lighting. This has been verified by one of my primary sources, photographer Kirran Shah from his feedback on my final product.

Specification 3

7 / 8

I chose to give specification 3 - My BlogSpot must be aesthetically pleasing and easy to view by having lots of white space surrounding the images – 7 out of 8. The reason for this is that my Photography BlogSpot is aesthetically pleasing and easy to view because I have left lots of white space and used a simple and consistent font that makes it easy to view. To gain greater feedback for this specification, I could have also requested feedback from a professional blogger to gain their perspective, hence, I've only given myself 7 out of 8, rather than 8 out of 8.

Specification 4

8 / 8

I chose to give specification 4 - My photograph headings need to be simple and descriptive – 8 out of 8. The reason for this is that each of my headings are simple and describe the subject matter of the photograph effectively.

Specification 5

6 / 8

I choose to give specification 5 - My Photography BlogSpot needs to reflect the colourful and multicultural characteristics of Darwin – 6 out of 8. The reason for this is grade is because I could have focussed each photograph on a different culture represented in the Darwin rather than a selected few. To improve this I could have planned each of my images around a different culture – this would have made my initial goal more rigorous and challenging.

Reflect on how completing the Personal Project has extended your knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context

How has completing the Personal Project extended my knowledge and understanding of the topic of your product/outcome?

Through creating my Photography BlogSpot I have extended my knowledge and understanding of the topic of photography and blog creating.

My knowledge of photography has extended in the following areas:

Composition: From my research and application I learnt that composition is best applied when the scene is simplified and the frame filled. Jeff Meyer explains “you should zoom in to fill the frame, or get closer to the subject” as a way of filling the frame to get the most aesthetically pleasing photograph using the element of composition. After applying this knowledge research to my own photography I found that the simplest scenes that had their frames filled were the most aesthetically pleasing photographs, this has extended my knowledge of the photography element of composition.

Perspective: My source from The Photo Argus by Tara Hornor explains “when looking to create an image in which the subject is bigger than the object, use framing to compare the objects with false perspective.” I was able to apply this information when taking my photographs of the delicious smoothies at the Parap Markets, by using the camera frame in comparison with the person in the background, I was able to make the smoothie cup look very different. My research and application of this research has extended my knowledge of the photography element of perspective.

Colour balance: From experimenting with the basic tips and tricks from the source Introduction to White Balance by Darren Rowse, I was able to attain correct colour balance by taking a blank sheet of white paper

with me to photograph my photos. When I photographed colourful scenes, I simply focus the camera on the white sheet of paper and held the shutter half way down and then redirected the camera to the Parap Market scene and this allow a much truer reflection of the colours. This simple technique has extended my knowledge of the photography element of colour balance – I can apply this same technique to the future photographs I take where I want to achieve optimal colour balance.

Lighting: My knowledge of how to ‘paint with light’ using my camera has been extended through this project. By applying my Arts teacher Ms Galletly and freelance photographer Andrew Gibson’s advice to my own photographs, I was able to make the most of the outdoor lighting situation at the Parap Markets. I chose to take my photos from 7.30am – 9.30am on both photographing days so I could have the soft natural light, not the hard light that is present from 10 am until 3pm. By applying this information, my photos have soft natural light that has helped me reach my goal of creating photos that allow viewers to appreciate the aesthetical nature of photography and extended my knowledge of the photography element of lighting.

My knowledge and understanding of creating a Photography BlogSpot has been extended in the following areas:

Creating headings for photographs: In the source ‘The Secrets of Successful Photography Blogging’ by Lauren Lim she states “use descriptive, meaningful titles.” I transferred this information to the headings for my own photographs as well as using some of the poetry techniques I had learnt in my Language and literature subject. For example, the title for my Mango Smoothie is “Smooth and silky mango smoothie” as I have made this descriptive and meaningful and also used the poetry techniques of rhyme, rhythm and alliteration. I have applied this research and information to all the headings of my photographs, thus extending my knowledge and understanding of how to create headings for photographs on a Photography BlogSpot.

Creating a photography BlogSpot using WordPress: I had some technical difficulties as I tried to create my Photography BlogSpot using WordPress, these difficulties caused me to research further about creating a BlogSpot using WordPress on my MacBook Pro. I needed to upgrade to the latest OSX Yosemite software to effectively create my BlogSpot. This caused my laptop to glitch and I had to reboot the entire system. Thankfully, WordPress is an online source so my initial set-up work was saved and I did not have to redo this. However, I have extended my knowledge and understanding of web-based programs and have discovered an entire online community dedicated to fixing technical issues. This information is very valuable, and it will inform my future projects. Through creating my own BlogSpot using WordPress I was able to extend my knowledge and understanding of how to create a photography BlogSpot using

WordPress. I will incorporate this information to my Stage 1 and Stage 2 Visual Arts subject, as I will collate my portfolios on a WordPress BlogSpot so my work is continually backed up.

How has completing the Personal Project extended my knowledge and understanding of the global context?

Through completing my personal project my knowledge and understanding of the global context Personal and cultural expression has been extended. Through researching photographers and online photography blog developers I could explore how they have expressed their personal and cultural expression through developing their technical skills in a medium they enjoy.

The Personal and cultural expression guiding question is what is the nature and purpose of creative expression? Through creating my photography BlogSpot I have been able to explore the characteristics of creative expression for myself personally. I have discovered that the primary characteristic of my cultural expression is the ability to visually capture what I see around me. Through exploring this global context I have come to believe that the purpose of creative expression is to explore and in that exploration find meaning for a persons life. Living in Darwin I have found myself surrounded by many different cultures and each culture expresses itself differently. Many of these cultures are reflected at the Parap Markets and through capturing these with my camera lens I have seen the ways in which these cultural groups express themselves, primarily through families working together, food and community.

The area of exploration I decided to focus on through my personal project was 'our appreciation of the aesthetic'. Through developing my technical skills and application of the photography elements of composition, lighting, colour balance and perspective, my knowledge and understanding of the appreciation of the aesthetic has extended as I have gained professional perspectives of what makes an aesthetically pleasing photograph that others can appreciate.

Reflect on development as a learner

Through completing the personal project I have developed as a learner. By enduring this large and sustained-inquiry I have grown to be a more balanced learner. As I have had to carefully manage my outside of school time, my ability to plan and stick to a plan has been tested and improved. With homework from 8 other subjects as well as basketball training and weekend games I felt the overwhelming pressure of being overloaded with school work. However, creating my development and process plan at the start of creating my Photography BlogSpot with the other school and sport requirements in mind was

beneficial. I had to practice resilience when I became overwhelmed and also ensure that I took time to relax and read BlogSpot's for pleasure, as well as the personal project.

I have also developed as a reflective learner. In all subject areas I have to provide a reflection at the end of each learning experience and summative task, however, not continuous reflection each step of the way. Although I do this thinking continually, the personal project required me to reflect using my process journal as a documentation tool. By continually assessing my strengths and limitations as an amateur photographer and BlogSpot developer I gave more thoughtful consideration and this helped me develop as a reflective learner.