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If I had all the time in the world (I almost do because of quarantine), I would make this reflection into an entire argumentative essay. I have learned more in New Media about myself and the world around me than I have in any other class. In the past four years, my maturity has advanced exponentially and I owe it to the lessons your class has taught me.

This year, specifically, had the greatest impact on me. To start, I was put in a new position of leadership right as I was placed under the extreme pressure and anxiety of the college application process. Every day until the dreaded December 12th, I had a certain level of uneasiness as I went throughout my school day. I would waste my energy in math class worrying about whether or not I would get into my dream school. I paid such little attention in physics and economics because I couldn't help but think about the 12 supplements I had to write or the college interview I had the next day. But in New Media, it was different. My position as Executive Editor allowed me to put my energy into something productive and something that I loved doing. My responsibilities in your class of course consisted of typical teacher expectations of students such as showing up on time and meeting deadlines, but there was also more than that. I felt responsible for helping other students succeed and learn to report, making sure our team was running efficiently, and most importantly keeping up the accepting and welcoming classroom environment that you helped us create.

One of the main reasons our class is so successful is due to the relationships we all have with each other. We aren't afraid to ask questions or talk about the difficult topics. We are comfortable with giving each other constructive criticism. I would feel completely fine working with absolutely anyone in our class, but I can't say that in all of my classes. Through this realization, I have come to learn that the "normal" way is not always the best way.

Your classroom structure was by no means typical, but the camaraderie in your classroom and what we were able to accomplish was unlike anything I have ever experienced. I'm not able to talk about my opinions on controversial issues in other classes even when the opportunity presents itself because I have such a fear of being judged. Your class is a prime example of using a different approach to teaching that was more of a collaborative effort between students and teachers rather than an authoritarian teacher with subordinates. This helped me mature and gain practical experience in the field of journalism. Rarely did we ever sit in rows and listen to you teach us something at the smart board. I do that for the 8 other periods of the day with teachers that may believe they could never teach the way you do. But, I learn more in the 40 minutes that we are together than at any moment in the school day. Everything about our class is unique and I love everything about it.

New Media has taught me to try new things that may not be accepted by my peers. I learned that there is always more than one way to do something and there is always something else to learn. I now have an appreciation for questioning what is going on in my world rather than watching it pass by blindly. After being in this class for four years, I can confidently say I no longer will fear making mistakes in order to achieve my dreams and that I will certainly not judge others for doing the same.