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Mr. Greco

English IV

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Zenith Project Reflection

The Zenith project is something I have been looking forward to since my Junior year. This project gives us the opportunity to let our imagination run wild and create anything we want as our final large piece here at Freestyle. Ideas have been circling around in my mind for almost a year now, and I could not wait to get started.

I have been going to summer camp since 2015. From elementary school to now graduating high school, this place is now my second home. Being away from home and technology left us with few activities such as friendship bracelet making, throwing a frisbee, and playing numerous card games. With this summer being my first as a camp counselor, I wanted to create my own customized deck of cards to use for this summer and all the years to come.

To begin this project, I asked a few of my friends what they enjoyed about a deck of cards, as well as did some of my own research. I drew inspiration from playing card designers Syb Faes and Katie Morris, as well as the Art and Machine playing cards. Most of my brainstorming was with my partner Benji, who showed me his collection of cards and helped me understand the terminology, as well as certain design aspects. I owe a lot of the success of this project to him. I could not have done this without him. With my new knowledge of cards and journal full of potential ideas, I was ready to start.

I had a lot of speedbumps while making these cards, the biggest being having almost no inspiration for the court cards. I reached out to Jake, and after a long conversation, he helped me figure out what to do for the Kings, Queens, and Jacks. He also was always there to pose to be my reference image. This was an incredibly successful collaboration, and I am very grateful for Jake being there to help me complete these cards and always being around to provide feedback for me.

Another thing I really enjoyed about this project was the freedom to create our own deadlines. Since everyone in Design was working on very different projects, we had to make our own timeline to submit to Canvas to show our progress. I loved this idea, and although I was not the best at meeting my deadlines, it helped me stay on track to see what I had to do next. This was also a great introduction to how assignments will be laid out in college, and I definitely feel more prepared for future projects. I think this project greatly improved my ability to take risks. I had to take a big step out of my comfort zone to complete this project, and I think this will help me in the future when brainstorming for my next projects.

Over my two years at Freestyle, this is definitely my favorite project I have completed. Although we always print out finished work to present at Exhibition, I often struggled to connect to it in the same way as having a tangible finished product to look at. Having a deck of cards that I designed and now get to use on a day-to-day basis feels amazing.

Overall, I am very happy with this project. If I were to change anything, I would definitely reapproach how my deadlines were set up. For example, I had to design a few

more cards before my ordering deadline, so I gave myself the weekend to catch up. However, I got very sick and I had not started any of the Queens and three of the Jacks, resulting in a hectic weekend of work. Even though I wish I had given myself more time to get everything done, I am still very proud of how they turned out.