

Luke Nothstine

ENC3433

Professor Schneier

22 February 2026

### Author's Statement

#### **Process**

For my Material Multimedia project I chose to create a scrapbook/journal entry for my 22nd birthday party that I had at the end of January this year. I decided to make this text because I knew that I wanted to do a scrapbook/journal entry that was based on some sort of event that had a lot of my friends. I ended up choosing my own birthday because it was the closest event that I had a lot of photos from this year, and also just because it was a lot of fun for me and I wanted to catalogue the memory.

I planned to make the text in a new journal that I was actually gifted at my birthday by one of my close friends, and figured I would be able to print the photos on 4x6 prints from CVS while using my own writing utensils for any of the text that I wanted to add to the entry. This would include two modalities (written language and photos) and two types of media (paper and printed photograph). While I wanted to do more, the lack of time and also getting sick led to me not being able to create a super extravagant entry although I am happy with the end product.

#### **Reflection**

Throughout the composition process I tried my best to put the photos in chronological order just for the fun of it, but mainly because the last photo I had was my friend James who hosted my birthday party asleep. Besides that I did not have a huge plan, I just wanted to

catalogue some of my favorite photos from it and write a little bit about what was going on in each one. Throughout the process it did make me a little emotional, I was happy to have the photos printed out and scrap booked instead of just on my phone. It was also nice to write about the first party I had thrown since I was 16, especially when some of my friends drove over 5 hours just to come to it. Overall I just felt very loved while cataloguing the experience.

While I am happy to be able to look back at the final text I definitely think it could have been more polished and more organized. Again like I said this was more so an exercise for me to catalogue a great time I had with my friends, but I do wish it was a little more visually pleasing but I don't mind since it is just for me in a journal.

### **Connection to Course Readings**

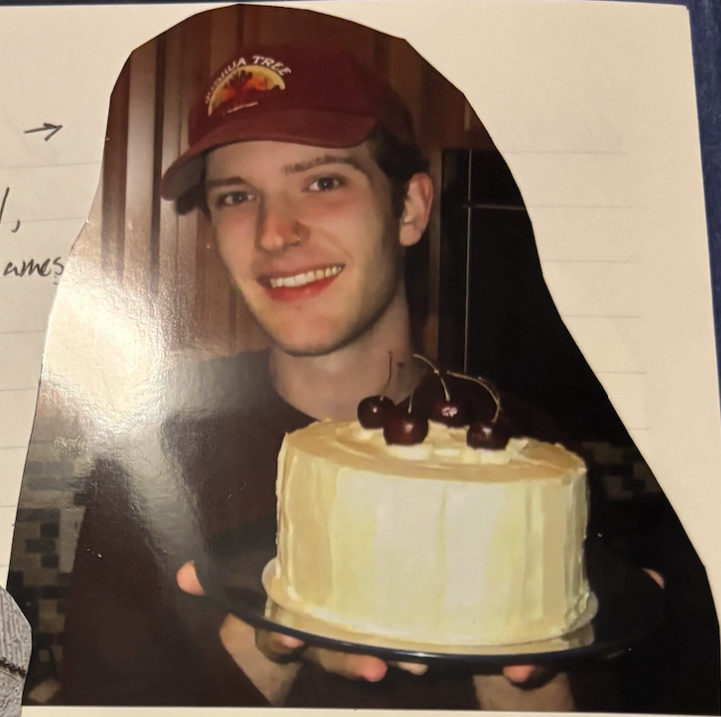
My birthday journal entry combines written descriptions/reflections with printed photographs from the party. While it is a simple scrapbook it is also a multimedia and multimodal composition, especially when examined through the frameworks and writings by Emily Schlesinger and Claire Lauer. In "What is Multimedia," Emily Schlesinger argues that multimedia involves the combination of multiple communication media (especially visual and auditory elements) to create meaning. While my entry does not include auditory elements Schlesinger also states that multimedia is, "involving several media; referring to any mixture of communication media, including mediated lectures, TV, film, drama, collages, and slide/tape programs," (Schlesinger 1). My scrap book/journal entry would fit in with the collage category in my opinion, but also because it combines visual media and written language to communicate meaning. Being able to see the poses/body language/facial expressions in the photos also communicates meaning to the viewer, adding another layer to my piece of multimedia. Without

these photos even if I tried to explain the photos in writing, it would not fully translate no matter how detailed I went with it. The meaning in my project arises from the combination of writing and visuals which is why I connected it to Schlesinger's writing, especially her idea of multimedia being combinations of multiple forms of communication media.

Lauer's article "Contending with Terms: "Multimodal" and "Multimedia" in the Academic and Public Spheres," also helps deepen the connection between my journal entry/scrap book and multimedia. As stated by Lauer, "The difference between multimodal and multimedia is largely a difference between "modes" and "media." Modes can be understood as ways of representing information, or the semiotic channels we use to compose a text (Kress & Van Leeuwen, 2001). Examples of modes include words, sounds, still and moving images, animation and color. Media, on the other hand, are the "tools and material resources" used to produce and disseminate texts (p. 22). Examples of media include books, radio, television, computers, paint brush and canvas, and human voices," (Lauer 227). To connect this to my project, the modes include written language, images/photos, layout, and color/font choices. Even though I wrote in my own handwriting this was still a choice in the design and process of the journal which makes it a mode. The medium would be the journal itself. Lauer allows me to not just say, "I used pictures and words," but instead, I can explain how the interaction between those elements creates layered meaning.

Project:

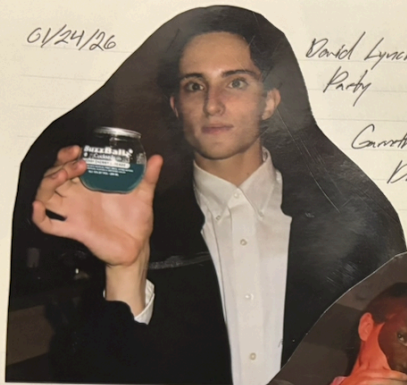
birthday with →  
sophia, michael,  
garreth, ryan, james  
+ courtney  
01/20/26  
(cake by  
garreth)



celebrated by sushi dinner  
and watching music videos.

01/24/26 Preparing for  
the party by going to  
costco with Garreth  
and James. Garreth ate  
a hot dog and said he  
was feeling "very American"  
even though he's from  
Canada.

6/24/26



David Lynch themed Party

Garrith as Dale Cooper

Courtney + I as Audrey Horne and Rabbit from Inland Empire. David Lynch will always be one of my favorite directors ever and we had the same birthday so this was perfect.



Throughout the party we played his movies on James tv - Inland Empire, Mulholland Drive, and Blue Velvet.



Michael as Susan/Nikki from Inland Empire with Susan/Nikki played by Laura Penn in the background.

A few more memories...



Yoga practice  
with Garrett + Isabella

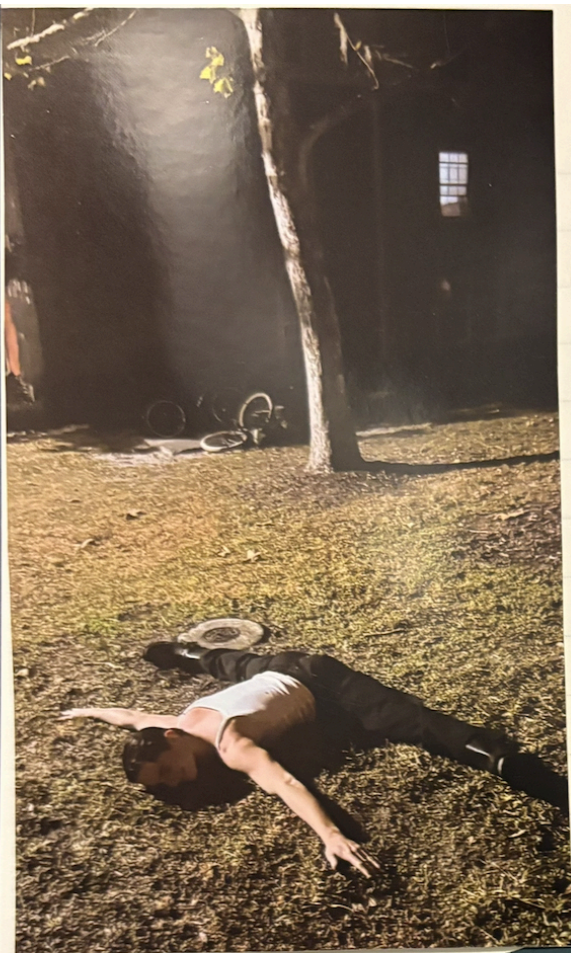
Isabella as the angel from Fire Walk with Me



Recreating  
the "Rabbits"  
scene from  
Inland Empire.

- Another birthday  
cake -





Ballet dancer  
showing off post  
yoga practice.

Overall I couldn't  
ask for a better  
party. I love my  
friends so much.  
And shout out to David  
Lynch

James  
falling asleep  
at his own  
hosted party

