For my senior portfolio I want to explore how my college experience relates to the experience of Sam from *Green Eggs and Ham*. Using the Kolb’s methodology, I will use the concrete experiences from my artifacts to reflect and illustrate this theme as well as the concepts that I have learned. With this theme I want to do more than just talk about the exploration that has taken place during my college career, but about how this has taught me more about myself than I previously knew and helped me discover my inner truths. I want to relate my experience to Sam’s experience, concerning letting go of my resistances and focusing on the great outcomes as a result of that. The lesson that I take from this story is that you must be open minded or you will miss out on great opportunities. If I had not ventured out and as a result had doors to new opportunities and knowledge opened to me I would not have been molded into the person that I am today. Before I came to college all of the adults I spoke with told me that this would be the best four years of my life. Thus far, it has been nothing short of that. I see college as the perfect time to figure out who you truly are and who you want to be. I have seen many people lose their way in these past years. There are a lot of faces that came in with me freshman year that I no longer see. That could have easily been me, but being open minded and trying new things helped me find myself and my way. I believe that to truly find peace, you must first find yourself.

The artifacts that I have chosen, each in a different way, show what I have learned and what I have gained from keeping an open mind and embarking on new academic as well as social adventures. They show the journey of my exploration and discovery. I chose these
particular artifacts because I think they truly highlight how I have grown and come to understand myself better. I want my artifacts to be an extension of my theme and really tell a story for the viewers of my portfolio.

My first academic artifact is my Honors Community Service Lab Final Reflection. For this class I did my community service at The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Charlotte. I will represent this artifact with a picture of my log of the hours I completed. By going into this experience with an open mind and willingness, like the new and improved Sam, I gained an abundance of wisdom and understanding towards the power that giving back can have. During my time at the Boys and Girls Club I became particularly close with a fifth grade girl. She really opened up to me about her problems in school and even asked me to attend her awards ceremony for having perfect attendance. It really meant a lot to me that she would want me at such an event even though we had just met. The children at the center and the experience as a whole taught me just how fortunate I am to have the opportunities that I get and to have so many supportive people in my corner. It really helped me realize that I should never take advantage of anything that comes my way during my college experience.

My next academic artifact is my Altered Book project from my Freshman Seminar class. For this artifact I will show pictures of each page so you can really get the gist of the project. The entire purpose of this project was to help us explore the question “Who are you?” For me, working on this project was much like the experience of Sam learning more about his likes and dislikes in the story. This project really allowed me to learn more about myself and where I stand on current issues in the World. Each page was a visual metaphor for our stance on issues such as politics, the environment, the media, war, our view of life itself and more. By actually devoting myself to this project and not just going through the motions I made a lot of self-discovery.
College has taught me that it is important to have your own opinions and views and stand for what you believe is right.

Creativity Speaks is a project presentation that I did for my Creativity and Innovation class. To represent this particular artifact I will upload a slideshow of my presentation to my portfolio. This was one of the first projects that I have done in college that allowed for so much freedom in how I wanted to execute it. Just like with Sam, I learned just how beneficial it can be to be able to venture out and try new avenues. My presentation was entitled “Creative DIY’s for College Students Balling on a Budget”. I received great feedback from my classmates and professor on this project. Doing this project showed me just how essential it is to be creative and have your own unique voice.

I chose my Marketing Concepts Syllabus as an artifact because this class really shaped the rest of my college career. This was a big stepping stone for me because I came in as an undecided major, but was pretty sure that I was going to major in Psychology. My parents suggested that I explore other options, however I was very hesitant to this suggestion. This syllabus represents a shift in me and my open-mindedness towards my college career. By taking Marketing Concepts and deciding to declare my major as Marketing I set the tone for the rest of my time here and possibly my future. Exploring different general education courses led me here and ultimately helped me discover my true passion for the marketing field.

I would like to use phone calls with my dad as one of my artifacts and use a picture of him and word art of the quote to represent it. He likes to call me on his way to work because it is the perfect amount of time since he is not big on talking on the phone for too long. We usually talk about what is going on with me in college and my classes or something happening in the news. He is always preaching to me about how I need to watch the news frequently and keep up
with what is going on in the world. At the end of every phone call with my dad since freshman year he says to me the same exact line… “Don’t forget why you’re there”. I am not sure if he knows it, but this has really stuck with me. I remember this with every step I have taken on this campus and every decision I have made. I tend to stress a lot over little things but his words have helped me to remember the bigger picture. That being, he did not send me to college to be like Sam, but to be the best me I can be.

Another artifact I have chosen is a picture of my first Uptown adventure. To me these pictures directly correlate with my theme and exemplify what college is about. You cannot be afraid to explore new opportunities and take leaps of faith, the exact same concept with Sam trying the green eggs and ham. I came in early with the Student Advising for Freshman Excellence (S.A.F.E.) program and on my second night here me and three other girls, that I had just met, decided to be adventurous and take advantage of our new found freedom and take a trip uptown. Looking back it was such a risky thing to do for four young girls to take public transportation in a big city we knew nothing about. As we were walking around we saw a homeless guy singing Beyoncé’s “Run the World” while shaking a water bottle. We quickly sped up our walking and laughed hysterically once we got further away. This made me realize just how dangerous this impulsive trip could have been. However, I am so glad we took this trip. It is always a great story to tell and those same girls are my closest friends to this very day that have helped me through many ups and downs.

I think that my Microsoft Award works well as an artifact for this theme also. This year I went to an event in the Student Union held by Microsoft. They were having an upcoming “Blacks at Microsoft Minority Student Day” and you had to write an essay as a part of the application that also entered you into a contest. I hesitated to even write the essay to attend this
day, but at the last minute I decided to do so. To my surprise I won second place and an amazing opportunity to job shadow at the Microsoft Campus in Charlotte and learn more about their College Hire program. From this I learned that sometimes you can be your own greatest obstacle. Never hold yourself back or doubt yourself. Doors will only open for you, like the opportunity I received with Microsoft, if you seek them out and are not afraid of failure. Just like with Sam being so reluctant to try the green eggs and ham, but finally giving in.

The last artifact I want to use is my Emerging Leaders Graduation Certificate. Emerging Leaders was one of the first organizations I joined on this campus my freshman year. It was a great experience and a stepping stone in my college career. It really introduced me to the concept of being a leader and the significance of getting involved on campus and in your community. It started my college career off on the right path. The reputation of this organization and what we learn from it helped me obtain positions on campus. For instance, becoming a S.A.F.E. Counselor my sophomore year. In addition to that, I made many great connections and am still friends with many of the people I met today.

To bring all of this together I want to use Wix.com to design my portfolio. This website is great for building portfolios because it allows for a wide range of customization that I can use to enhance my theme. It also allows you to upload word documents and pictures, create photo galleries and a variety of other options. On top of that, I am very familiar with this platform from using it on other University Honors Program portfolios. At the end of this all I want to show how my college and UHP experience has culminated. I want to show how it has shaped and molded me and how it still is each and every day.

I would like to ask Dr. James, Associate Professor of Philosophy to be my thesis advisor. I have had her before as my professor for Mixed Race Theory. I love how, as a philosophy
teacher, she made us think deeper and make connections that we did not see by just thinking on the surface. I think that she would be a great asset to me on this portfolio to help give me that extra push to help develop my ideas more. For my reader I would like to ask Dr. Rieman. I have not had the opportunity to have a class with her before, but I do know that she is an Associate Director of First-Year Writing with special interests in ePortfolios and digital composing. I think that she will also be very beneficial in helping me develop my content and then translating that over to my portfolio.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**November 11th**- Proposal due

**January**- Begin class, meet with thesis advisor and reader to schedule meetings for the semester, start work on portfolio

**February**- Begin layout of e-portfolio and start uploading documents

**March**- Continue to meet with thesis advisor and reader to make any necessary revisions on e-portfolio and reflections

**April**- Final revisions, practice and prepare for presentation, present portfolio

**May**- Graduate with University Honors
Works Cited


Lesesne, Reginald. Phone call. 2011-2014

Microsoft Award, Charlotte, North Carolina. Personal photograph by author. 2014.