Making My Own Map

Whether we realize it or not, we grow up being told there is a certain way to live or lives. For example, my childhood and teenage years are filled with the instructions to get good grades, go to college, get a science degree, get a job, make money, get married, and have kids, in that order. This was my map for future happiness. Only it wasn’t truly my map. It had just been repeated subtly and often enough by society that I thought it was what I wanted.

However, when I came to college, I realized that there were other paths open. It was a slow process, but eventually I threw out the map that handed down to me, and having been creating my own map of how to navigate my life. I entered college as a Chemistry major and will be leaving with French and English majors. Making my own map and not following one already set is a scary and uncertain experience, but as a result I have grown much more personally and academically, and become an independent adult.

This paper and portfolio are a physical mapping of the path I have taken in college. They show the twists and turns that have led to where I am today. I will use eight artifacts to represent important landmarks and experiences in my time at UNC Charlotte. In addition, I will include academic research into the benefits and value of humanities degrees. By creating these, I hope to gain a better understanding of my
journey over the last several years, and to use that knowledge to help me move forward and begin my career.