

Connor H Changemakers 1

by Connor Humphreys

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Part A

1/2 Personal Statement

Becoming part of a large team of experts in animation is something that has enticed me and grasped my focus in recent years. The process in which a creative team connects in order to produce a project of pure passion I feel would entail a strong sense of fulfilment and unparalleled accomplishment. 3D animation is vital to the portrayal of modern video games, setting the tone and atmosphere for the player in order to captivate their attention and hand them true immersion in the experience. My passion for video game animation sparked in 2018, with the release of the game 'Detroit: Become Human', as with the powerful message and incredible storyline, came breathtaking animations that altered my perspective on my future aspirations. The animations from this game were impressive, down to the finest detail. From this I was truly inspired and developed a craving to work within an animation team, feeling a desire to push myself and my limits in order to create a finished project at as high of a standard as 'Detroit'.

I believe my passion is reflected within my academic studies. At A-level and University, I studied Media along with VFX, as I am continually enticed by the capabilities of the editing software used, and the atmosphere that can be created using cinematography. This will help me within the basis of 3D animation, as I have accumulated knowledge on a variety of visual topics, learned the basics of editing and graphic software, and developed my resilience and cooperation skills. I have also studied Welsh Baccalaureate at A level, and Changemakers in University, which has pushed me to develop many necessary skills, specifically critical thinking, and individual effectiveness.

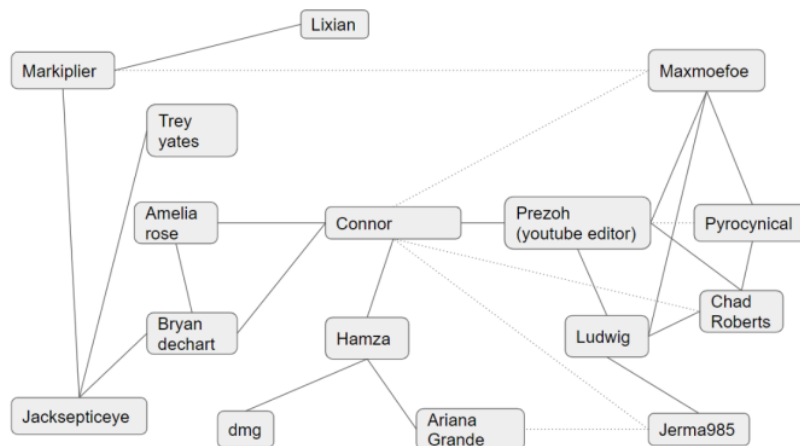
I ensure that I constantly develop skills needed for animation. I hold a strong passion for art, beginning with illustrating my parent's wedding invitations at eight years old. At the age of 16 I had illustrated a 2D digital short film, including my favourite characters from a show. I thoroughly enjoyed the process and finding what I was capable of. This small project gave me an example of the requirements for creation, teaching me valuable skills such as time management and coordination. I have previously completed MOOCs to help me advance my skills further during my University course, one being 'low poly art for video games' by Michigan State Uni, in which I learned how to create basic models and navigate the tools within the 'maya' engine, one of the most popular pieces of software within 3D modelling and basic animation. This course was extremely useful as it gave me the knowledge and tools necessary to create small models and basic joints. Another course ensured I developed my knowledge and understanding of the tools I had been introduced to. Titled 'beginners guide to modelling with maya' by equinox learning solutions, it pushed me to further my skills and become confident in my ability to create simple models. After significantly advancing my skills during the 3D animation course at Trinity St. Davids, I became able to create and animate models, along with texturing and UV unwrapping, I was also given the opportunity to use cameras and real footage within vfx software to improve my skills from my past media course.

I have had many opportunities to volunteer with charities, mainly 'Friends of MS'. Working closely with the society, I have been given an insight into the lives that people suffering with MS lead, becoming close companions, and catering to their needs. They have taught me many things from a young age, such as life lessons to academic advice. I believe working with these people has shaped my personality as I am now more caring and grateful

towards others. They have also helped me to improve my confidence, and public speaking skills, as I have often been called to give announcements or to read the members poetry.

After completing this higher course, I aim to involve myself within the 3D animation industry as soon as possible. I will indulge in every opportunity I can find within the course to ensure my ability to gain experience and develop important ties to the industry as a whole. I will ensure that my true passion for animation will shine through, and that soon I can take pride within the fact I assisted in creating many passionate, polished final products, alongside an expert creative team I have the pleasure of calling myself a member of.

2/2 Network



My network contains many internet personalities including youtubers, streamers, and editors. I feel this is a very effective network for me as the job I am currently aiming for is youtube editing in a similar style to Prezoh and Lixian. They use a lot of vfx skills to bring horror or comedy elements into the content that makes it much more enjoyable to watch. I've spoken to Prezoh before, sending him a video I had edited where he gave me some tips in return which helped me advance my skills. In the network is also Bryan Dechart, an actor who modelled for Connor in the game 'Detroit: Become Human', along with his wife Amelia Rose who also modelled for a character in the game. The two have been cast for many games such as Red Dead Redemption 2 and Cyberpunk 2077 along with acting in a few movies. I feel this is very helpful as they are well versed within the games design and animation industry as if i later decide to pursue videogame animation as a career i have contacts that can help explain the process. Bryan and Jacksepticeye are also linked, as they are friends that would include Jack's editor Trey Yates, along with Markiplier and his editor Lixian. These are also extremely helpful as Lixian and Trey do amazing editing work at a level I aim to be at. Prezoh links a lot of people to me, including Max and Chad from their separate channels and the Cold Ones channel that Prezoh edits for. This is another helpful link to youtube, and also opened up my network to Youtubers Pyrocynical and Ludwig, popular content creators who have years of experience. Ludwig is also connected to the variety streamer Jerma985, known for many groundbreaking streams such as the 'Dollhouse stream' in which he performed an improv show over a few days as if he were a sim, allowing the chat to vote on his actions. Overall I feel my network is extremely helpful for the job I am

aiming to go into, as it includes many creative individuals with years of experience in the platforms that are relevant to my goals.

Part B Zander Letter

Benjamin Zander,

Today is the 14th of July 2023, and I have recently received a first class honour for my work in the changemakers module, due to the fact I have made small improvements throughout my time studying. At the start of the year I had a few issues that held me back from reaching my potential grade, and now I'm going to explain what methods I put in place in order to help myself overcome each issue.

My first issue was time management. This is something I frequently struggled with in and out of class. I would leave almost everything right until the last minute because I experience executive dysfunction and would find starting a task impossible. This was a big detriment to me as I wouldn't have enough time to produce work to the best of my ability. In order to combat this I found it helpful to start work after eating lunch. This helped my brain get into an easy routine which developed over time. At the start I would write anything, even if it was just a single sentence, because even that made it significantly easier to continue working later on, as there was no intimidating blank page staring back at me. Over time I ended up doing a small amount of work everyday, breaking it down into smaller pieces proved incredibly effective and allowed me enough time to complete my classwork to a much higher standard than previous, which made a large difference, all because I finally had enough time to complete it while not stressing about the seemingly enormous task in front of me.

The next issue was that my research skills were not as strongly developed as my other skills. This made it hard for me to evaluate whether a source was relevant to the topic I had at hand, and could only generally find a couple of articles each time. I improved this skill by playing into my interests. I decided to create a few docs throughout the year on topics I liked such as videogame lore or shows I liked. I wrote a short essay about each of these topics after bringing together as many primary and secondary sources as possible. I aimed to use ten sources for each, in order to encourage me to look further into the topics I was being faced with in class. This really helped me to improve, as learning how to gather references in a way that was extremely interesting to me made it much easier to get lost in research and find a variety of helpful sources and websites that came in handy for future projects.

The last issue I will be mentioning in this letter is the fact that I am very easily distracted, and find it incredibly difficult to focus on a task. This affected me a lot as my work would often end up confusing and unpolished, at a lower level than I attempted to achieve due to the fact I was unable to give it my full attention and remain focused for the duration of the task. Managing this issue was possibly the most difficult challenge I experienced this year. I had to try a lot of different methods before I found one that helped me cope with it. Some of the things I tried include using a phone timeout and leaving it across the room to not get distracted by texts, including locking other apps on my laptop that I wasn't using for the task. This ultimately didn't work as I found I would still get distracted by sounds and objects around me. I also attempted to use noise cancelling headphones with lo-fi music to help clear my mind and focus my thoughts. This also didn't work as I felt wildly understimulated by the slow beat. I found listening to loud music that I personally enjoy helps me to focus because my brain is so familiar with the sound, it almost blocks out the sound

itself, while the fast pace helps me to relax strangely enough. After implementing this each time, along with using a dim blue light, I found it much less stressful to focus and complete the work I needed to complete to a better standard than before.

[1]

B. Zander. "Welcome to the Benjamin Zander Center." <https://www.benjaminzander.org/> (accessed: Dec. 12, 2022).

[2]

L. Naiman. "Transform Your Professional and Personal Life with the Art of .." <https://www.creativityatwork.com/art-of-possibility-ben-zander/> (accessed: Dec. 12, 2022).

I found no relevant resources when explaining my network or personal statement

FINAL GRADE

57 / 100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

1. Engagement With Literature Skills (52%)

There is some evidence of research presented in the e-portfolio – and this is in IEEE format, which is good – though I feel this can be expanded upon in order to earn more marks and further your knowledge. Try using the tips you suggest yourself in the Zander letter to begin with.

There should be plenty of resources out there on how to write a personal statement as this is a common subject. My advice to expand your research is to write lists of key words relating to the task at hand – doing specific searches often comes up with few results – so instead search anything to do with the word list, e.g. 'Personal statement professional', 'writing personal statement', 'tips for personal statement' and so on.

2. Knowledge & Understanding Skills (59%)

In the personal statement, you need to elaborate on abbreviations in the first instance so that the reader understands what you are saying (e.g. what are MOOCs). This will help with clarity and understanding – particularly in international applications.

The mind map follows design cues and suggestions put forward during lectures – this shows evidence of internalising teaching material and applying this information to a project.

An appreciation of the Zander letter concept is evidenced in the work. Challenges have been identified and solutions have been offered. You may find by following some of these in reality you overcome some of these challenges – which is what the Zander letter is really about.

3.Cognitive & Intellectual Skills (56%)

The network exercise discusses many people who are known within Youtube editing, because as you say, this is an areas you want to be more involved in. How many of these people are you connected to socially and/or professionally? This is the key – if these are people you can realistically talk to, then this has more potential – but if they are not likely to help on a personal level then they are more of an inspiration than a solid network contact. The key is to have people who mutually benefit from knowing you in a network – famous people who aren't interested in helping can still be included, but would be weaker links and need to be represented as such.

Analytical abilities are evident in the Zander letter where certain areas are mentioned as things to work on, and solutions have been offered. Some of the solutions go further, offering alternatives too... so I assume you already tried them. Keep looking for alternative solutions if the ones you have don't work – this increases your ability to think critically, and the more of this you do the easier it will be in future.

4.Practical Application Skills (55%)

I feel that the personal statement should focus more on what you want to do, as opposed to what you have already achieved – as that will be present in your CV. The Personal statement could be tailored to a particular company or discipline for example, as it will be sent out with job applications.

The mind-map / network map itself is good, showing different connections between people – some of the links are different to denote different types of connections, as this is what's recommended in the teaching material. It may be good to have a key here so we can see what the different links mean.

The Zander letter is written in the format specified and tackles three main areas, which is good as it is focused. There are a few minor grammatical errors in the letter (mostly punctuation and capitalization) – try to get someone to proof-read your work before submitting as this may help identify a few of these instances.

5. Transferrable Skills for Life and Professional Practice (58%)

The e-portfolio has been submitted on time and addresses the criteria outlined in the assessment brief. This demonstrates an ability to deliver on an assessment brief within a predetermined time period. This in itself is a challenge to overcome, so every time you succeed in this it should be acknowledged.

The personal statement is missing capitalization on names in a number of places – proof reading this is important, as the personal statement helps make a first impression to potential employers.

The Zander letter identifies key areas that prove challenging and solutions have been offered to tackle them – this is good.

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