

Changemakers Building your Personal Brand

by Thomas Cahill

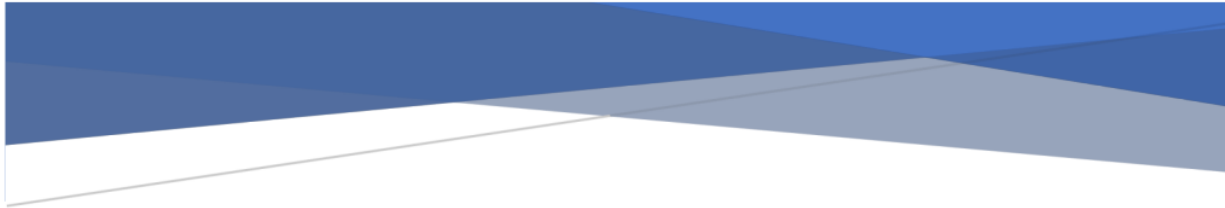
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LEVEL 5: CHANGEMAKERS: BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

Assignment: Promotional Portfolio

Thomas Cahill (2004206)

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Part A:

Professional CV:

the link to view or download the PDF is here

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cxci16nec1qa5gf/Changemakers%20CV%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0>

Part B: Zander Letter

Dear Thomas Cahill

I am writing this letter to tell you that I achieved a first in my computer animation studies.

This past year, my work ethic has improved dramatically when compared to previous years. As you know, in our first year, the conditions were not great, having to work alone from home at the kitchen table, with countless interruptions and no privacy, not to mention the awful back posture. Since then, I have made vast and beneficial changes to my working and social conditions, meaning I can now work at my best. These changes included: Moving my home workspace to my room, which meant having much more privacy which aided my concentration. A good desk and chair helped my posture, with good lighting to deal with eye strain. I'm sure you've also noticed the positive change to your motivation, brought on by not only having a good home office, but also finally being able to have gone onto campus for the first time, and having met your peers. This has helped me even more as I've grown closer to them, as having friends to rely on when you're having a hard time, is more helpful than words can say.

Our working conditions isn't the only thing I've developed; our time management has also come on in leaps and bounds. This can mostly be attributed to our support lecturers, as they have helped me understand the importance of pacing myself, by deconstructing my assignments into its components and taught me how to better plan my approaches to them, so I could approach my work as efficiently as possible. Action planning was useful for my future career. I've also managed to submit even more assignments without requesting differentiated deadlines, which has certainly eaten into my free time, but I had plenty of that anyway. This has improved my confidence in my abilities and has helped my mindset for achieving task driven goals.

As I mentioned before, I've given up a fair amount of free time to improve myself and work more on assignments, but I've accepted this was for the best. I didn't suddenly give more of my hours to work, as I knew that was too much to expect of myself that early on, so instead I slowly increased the time I spent working on my assignments each day. Even though the increase was slow, I still found this difficult to adjust to, as that still meant I'd spend less time on my hobbies for stress relief, but at a certain point I realised: Having better work hours meant getting more work done, which meant less work to stress over.

I made a series of goals that I wanted to achieve, over the course of the year:

1-year: "To complete my second year having made quality work with good grades that I can use in a showreel" I achieved this goal by continuing to apply the lessons I learned from my course and the changes I've made to my working approach.

I've turned most of my weaknesses in my technical skills into strengths, I've figured out a good approach to UV-unwrapping, shading and texturing, I learned how to soft-body model characters and rig them, along with my animation skills which have improved even more. However, there are some weaknesses I haven't been able to deal with, which I knew are not simple to crack. The biggest one is still my reluctance to start work on projects that don't interest me, which I'm sure is related to how I always initially view work as the 'big picture', which intimidates me, at least until I break down the work into its components, which makes it far less daunting.

Your future isn't as bleak as you may have once thought, keep moving forward.

Bibliography and References

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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

62/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

1. Engagement With Literature Skills (45%)

There is a bibliography/references section included in the submitted work, though there is no information contained within it (even when the title is expanded in Word). In order for more marks to be awarded in this section there needs to be evidence included of the research you've looked at.

2. Knowledge & Understanding Skills (64%)

A good understanding of the purpose of a CV and Zander letter have been evidenced in the submitted work.

The CV uses a more design-orientated template than a typical one, but this may be an advantage in your chosen career path. This can be used as a foundation for a real CV for future job applications (if you haven't already used it) as I feel it is strong and eye catching.

3. Cognitive & Intellectual Skills (62%)

The Zander letter identifies some areas of weakness that can be improved upon – this shows an ability to think critically about your performance and work ethic. Providing solutions in the text is also good as this is utilising those same analytical skills to look at ways in which

you can help improved your work quality, output and wellbeing. The next step is to take some of the advice you've given in this letter and apply it to reality – and see if you can help improve your capability to work as you move toward your third year.

4. Practical Application Skills (64%)

The cover letter/profile is good and has a positive and confident tone and feel, which is essential when applying for any kind of professional role. It would be good to expand on this, I feel – the version you present in the submission is ideal for a summary on a CV, but as a standalone personal statement it could be expanded to include your inspirations and aspirations for your career – maybe also a little acknowledgement to the company you're applying for as well – showing a little interest can often go a long way!

The CV is very well presented and the layout is clear, with different information separated in the document. It is important to put your experience and contact details in a prominent position, which you have done – good work.

The Zander letter is presented with a reflective tone – looking back, as opposed to preparing for future work. This is how it is intended to be. It's an odd concept, but one that is meant to encourage critical thinking and you have applied this to the submitted work.

5. Transferrable Skills for Life and Professional Practice (63%)

The portfolio is well presented and structured with contents and a title page – this is good as it improves readability and

accessibility. It also shows you take a pride in your work.

The language used in the CV and profile is professional and concise – very good for a document that is intended to convey information quickly.

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