

1. Please describe your contribution to the Arts program at your school or in your community.

Many ways that my Art contributes to the community are through creating the Newburyport High School Action News showcasing events, sports and news that happen within the school and community. Some of these projects include school rally videos and sports montages like the Championship soccer video I created. In the Action News I enjoy bringing light to all aspects of my home community. For example, each year I like to rate the residents of Newburyport's different Halloween and holiday home decorations. I try to keep things as light as possible and not be too serious to entertain people. Last year, I interned as a Basic Video co-teacher and helped the students to break into the world of film making and to find who they are as creators.

2. What sets you apart from the other artists in your chosen field(s)?

I hate when people are super technically perfect with their work, I like to keep things raw and make things feel genuine and not full of flair and showbiz. I also like to have my own spin on things, whether that is using music that isn't mainstream in my work, that is a signature of mine, or capturing genuine human reactions to stuff and keeping in mistakes or failed takes.

3. How does your work show innovative creativity?

I like to think of things that have never been done before. Whether that is something that is niche or maybe something that is just a new idea. An example of this would be a project I did called "Objects" where I created a choose your own adventure style found footage analog horror film. This included different perspectives of a character through different means of filming techniques.

4. What have you learned about Michael Colby?

What I have learned about Michael Colby is that he had a passion for design, music, clothing, and filmmaking like no other. Michael, like me, had a love for street culture, fashion, and punk rock music. Having his close friend, Ben Laing as a teacher at Newburyport High School, has helped me to have a true understanding of who Michael was as a person. If Michael was anything like Ben, I can imagine he was a genuine and phenomenally passionate and kind person. Since committing to study Digital Filmmaking at Lesley University, I have doubted if I have the ability to be successful within Film and Television once I'm done with college, but learning about Michael's story and seeing the success he had by being different and thinking outside the box gives me a spark of motivation. I feel now more than ever that as long as I stick true to myself and put the hard work in, I can be successful in anything I want to be. I hope to one day work somewhere within Film or Television or become a teacher of the arts for high school students to give kids the opportunity to experience and maybe find a passion like I did in digital media. After reading about Michael, I became very emotional as I see so much of myself in him, and it's a tragedy that he passed so young, and I wish I could have had a chance to meet him. I hope to honor his life by working my hardest to chase my dreams and goals.