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Final Project Summary
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My final project explored the way that people see themselves in black and white photographs. To construct the project, I took many black and white portraits of several people, and then showed each person their portraits. After I had them select one, I asked them, "how do you feel in black and white?". Most people had a tough time answering that question, so I elaborated, asking for an adjective to describe the way that each felt in their chosen photograph. I tried not to give too much detail other than those words so that I did not influence anyone's decision on choosing a word. After that, I used the adjectives provided by each person to manipulate their portrait, so that it better reflected how they felt in black and white.

I feel that my final project's results were very good. With every adjective given, I felt that there were some specific changes I could make to the pictures to convey that meaning. The first way I went about this was with different backgrounds. For example, in the "Pensive." portrait, I tried to think of a background that was scholarly, or academic, where one might be found thinking and looking pensive. In this case, I took a picture of a bookcase to use with the portrait. To compile the images into one composition, I used Photoshop heavily. First, I cut out around the person in the portrait with the Polygonal Lasso Tool, set with a one-pixel feather. I then deleted the background and inserted this portrait into the bookcase picture. After using the transform tools to make both elements the correct size, orientation, and proportion, I adjusted colors. I had de-saturated both pictures, but I decided that a slight sepia tone might make the image appear timeless, and thus emphasize the thought element of the adjective. I also used the clone stamp tool to get rid of flaws in the skin and to minimize the appearance of the brace on the person's finger. I felt that all of these treatments helped to successfully incorporate the two elements into one image.

Besides background changes, I also inserted objects to manipulate the portraits. In the case of the "Serious." portrait, the person was holding a notebook. In order to make him appear more like his adjective, I wanted to have him holding a more serious object, so I incorporated the book *War and Peace*. To do so, I found an image of the book's front cover, mirrored it, and used the clone stamp tool to get rid of the text on the "back cover" of the book. This way, the book appeared to be open at an appropriate viewing angle to the person holding it. Then, I lowered the opacity of the portrait, inserted the book, and used the polygonal lasso tool to remove portions of the portrait where the book would show. The dodge and burn tools also helped me make shadows and highlights on the book cover and edges, which makes it appear that the person is actually holding the book. These techniques helped convey the serious aspect without a background change.

I think that all five of the portraits that I took, plus my self portrait to present the question, were a great compilation for this project. I really enjoyed the trials of manipulating images to give a certain, specific experiment, and I equally enjoyed discovering people's perceptions of themselves in black and white photography.