# Reflections on using Technology for a Literature Unit

## Stopmotion reflection

Well that was fun! And frustrating too. I was so excited to start this project because I got to be creative and try something else new. Instead of creating my story first, I looked for supplies and a possible set. Once I had that in place, I started brainstorming. Seeing the stuffed leopard in my kid’s stuffed animal collection made me think of *The Tiger King* and I just went from there. Creative thinking means looking for ideas that are novel or impactful. My idea has little impact, but I am hoping it is unique and my audience might enjoy the subject matter. I wrote a brief outline ***then let the story and the filming take me where it wanted to go.***

I started with the Lego App first as I thought it would be at my level. After filming twice, it crashed on me. I was ready to scream. I then downloaded Stop Motion and it was much better. ***Since I best learn from trial and error***, I filmed a full clip without really knowing what I was doing. When I watched it, I realized there was so many mistakes. I had to redo it, but this time, I actually read the instructions (who knew!) and it turned out better, but still not to my satisfaction. I did it again and decided that was enough time for this project. The speech bubbles are too hard to read and the death of the Tiger King was too fast, but I learned the basics.

If I think reflectively, this was another learning leap in the technology world that became a time taker, but I enjoyed it. If I had more of it, ***I would redo it for the fifth time and learn from my mistakes*** until I was satisfied. ***I know that I need to read the instructions before I jump*** into the task to not waste my precious minutes and energy**. *I noticed that I got inspired as I went along and strayed from my original ideas*.** This happens in the creative process, and I am reminded that students may do the same thing in their writing. I ask you to create outlines of your essays, but ***I remind you that your writing may take you elsewhere and to let it happen****.* That is creative thinking.

## Mind Map Reflection

This was the second time I have used this website to make a mindmap. The first time I used it, it took me a long time to figure out and I got frustrated easy. I was ready to give up, but because I needed to finish my assignment, I persevered. ***I noticed that during this initial trial, I found I spent more time on the design process and less about thinking of the subject material.*** This is problematic if I the content is to be assessed more than the aesthetic. I wanted to go back to pen and paper because I could control the design faster, BUT I also realized that I could manipulate the branches and the final product as I went along and when I revised it at the end. If I had used pen and paper, my ideas would be committed to the page and I would have to start over if I had any new ideas or mistakes. ***I think having the power to make changes immediately probably saved me more time in the long run***. In addition, I began having fun with it and wanted to add more details and colours. Unfortunately, adding colour means getting the premium version, and I am too broke to bother.

Doing this small mind map for you as an example went quickly. ***I was able to scaffold my learning from the first experience*** to create this one in under 15 minutes. I even learned how to add an image! I had to critically analyze Darth Vader’s traits from the CC chart and decide which traits most of you would know. ***I learned that once I got a hang of this new website, I was more open to using it and exploring its many options***.