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### Capstone Reflection

When I was originally deciding what to focus on for my capstone, I did not know exactly what I wanted to focus on. Honestly, I waffled back and forth between ideas throughout the entirety of the capstone preparatory class. There was, however, a final deciding factor which would end up becoming the driving force behind the entire project. Simply put, I needed to read something fun and trashy. I was, during the spring semester before starting my capstone, taking classes which required intensive reading. Not only intensive reading, but novels from the Victorian era and literary theory, which are not easy to read and understand. In a sense, these classes ended up being essential to my capstone, which required me to break down the meanings behind esoteric texts. All of that is to say that I ended up researching splatterpunk horror, both out of a desire to, as mentioned, read something that I personally find fun, but also due to a sincere interest in rehabilitating the subgenre. I am someone who finds immense enjoyment in Torture Porn films, like the *Saw* film franchise, *The Collector*, etc, which are the film equivalent of splatterpunk horror. This project gave me an excuse to do a deep-dive into the genre.

For this project, I read six different novels, as well as reading various shorter texts focusing on horror novels and how themes, such as sexual assault, are written about. I had originally wanted to do more in-depth research about the movements and political backgrounds of each era I was writing about, but as I was working on the main genre study, I realized that realistically I was only going to accomplish one of my goals. Either I was going to read six

novels, as well as my other coursework, or I was going to be able to do the research I wanted to do. Seeing as the novels had already been purchased, I chose the former. I do not think that was necessarily a mistake, but I do wish I had been able to do more of the research I wanted to do. I think it would have made the project have a bigger impact as well as more of a conclusion.

Still, I do think I did good work on a subject that I feel very passionate about and, as mentioned during my presentation, contributed positively to a subject that is lacking in research. Throughout my presentations at the Honors Capstone Showcase last weekend and at VCHC at the beginning of last month, I am certain that I introduced more people to the subgenre and, perhaps, have led to people reading more diverse literature, which is always a positive outcome. Working on this project has also led to me becoming a better writer as well as being more certain that I am ready for the next steps of my academic journey.