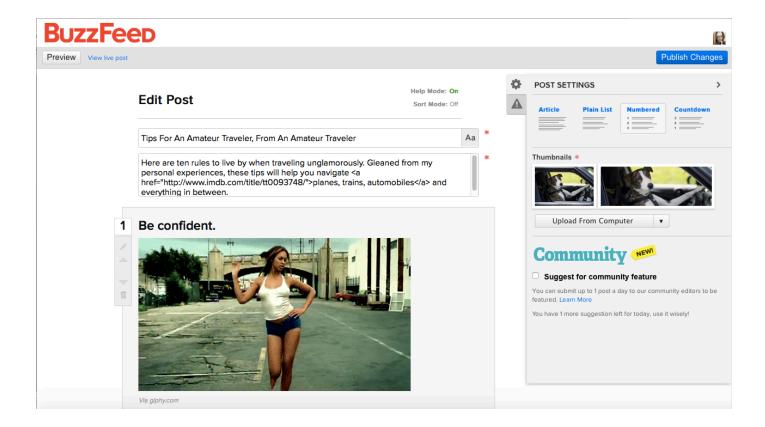The Making of Project III
Catherine Livingston

The making of Project III is much less of an epic than The Making of Project II, well because Project II was a booklet manuscript spanning 30 pages long and Project III is a Buzzfeed article consisting primarily of gifs. One of the great things about this project is being able to expand your creative horizons. Never in a million years would I have tried to make my own Buzzfeed article. But this project gave me an excuse to make an account on Buzzfeed Community and dive into the internet in a way I had never tried before. It's not that I was intimidated; it's just that I have always been a relatively passive Internet user. Yes, of course, interaction is required on social media sites like Facebook or Twitter, but I hardly interact with people outside of my close social contacts. I was very unfamiliar with the concept of injecting myself into a group of strangers on the Internet—and that is exactly what Buzzfeed is. Buzzfeed is community of people sharing thoughts—you don't have "friend requests" or "followers;" it's simply a forum for discussion and ideas. It's also a very colloquial and casual atmosphere. I thought those two characteristics fit my project perfectly. My tone of voice as a writer is naturally conversational. Also, the premise of my Project II was to communicate to people to not make the traveling mistakes I made, and to learn from my ridiculous shenanigans. What better way to convey my lesson and thoughts than through an intensely popular, casual discussion forum?

Of course I had other ideas before I settled on this one. Ideas that would've been fun, but didn't fit the personality of my Project II as well as Buzzfeed did. I had an idea to do story boards of the scenes from one of my stories. Another idea to do a "travel blog." And another idea to do a funny video imitating Zach Galifianakis' series, "Between Two Ferns." I was torn with what to do so I posted on the MIW blog to get some feedback, but alas, no feedback was received. I was happy with my decision to do Buzzfeed.

And forth I went. I actually wasn't even sure how to make a Buzzfeed post, so I Facebook messaged Hannah Schiff because she did her Project II on Buzzfeed. Hannah responded quickly and said "you make an account on Buzzfeed and you can make your own posts!" I thought to myself "omg, duh, how did I not think of that?" The actual making of was somewhat time consuming, but it was fun so I did the grunt of it in one sitting. The hardest part was finding appropriate gifs—which are just moving images. I used the site http://giphy.com and dragged the gifs onto my desktop once I found ones I liked. After I had chosen all my gifs my desktop was cluttered with icons. I wish I had artifacts to include in my making of, but everything was done electronically and therefore it is all a finished product now. Here is what the editing page of a Buzzfeed community post looks like.

Remember in my Making of Project II I explained how I had to leave off some of my tips because the project was too long? Well they came back into play for my Project III. I felt I needed more than 5 tips for a Buzzfeed post, so I brought the others back and brainstormed 2 more for a total of ten tips.

      After I had written the posts, I handed over my laptop to my roommate and asked if she would look them over for 1) spelling mistakes, and 2) Am I even funny? She obliged. Although she didn't think I was that funny. She also pointed out that my blurbs were a little too long to be typical of Buzzfeed, and I agreed with her. So I cut down my wording and voila, it was a finished product!

http://www.buzzfeed.com/catliv/tips-for-an-amateur-traveler-from-an-amateur-trav-150vn