ABSTRACT

SHASTA LEWIS. Identity Constructions in Student Narratives: Why Study at Hunt Library? (Under the direction of Professor Stacey Pigg.)

This capstone project examines the identities that students construct in their narratives about their study habits, practices, and preferences in the NextGen Learning Commons of Hunt Library here at North Carolina State University (NCSU). While there are a variety of places across campus for students to work privately and collaboratively, Hunt Library’s innovative design and digital resources have attracted students from several disciplines and backgrounds. Drawing on previous studies that examine how study space impacts students’ behaviors and study practices, the research analyzes the narratives of ten different students interviewed for this project and their experiences about working in the NextGen Learning Commons. The interview data was analyzed using narrative analysis with the aim of describing how students construct their identities in relation to their study space. Students might not consciously consider how and why they study at particular locations, so in their attempts to identify and clarify their rationale, they position themselves with and against this space.

*Keywords:* identity, space-design, narrative analysis, student learning