

Amanda Saywack

Culmination Project

Final Reflection

12/14/24

At the beginning of this class I did not think I would be able to learn so many new things when it comes to ENT, production, and how much effort and time it takes to create something as simple as a 10-minute video. Coming into this class I had idea of what it entailed, creating something that let me use and show off all the skills I have learned over the years in video and audio. When firstly proposing my idea to professor Ryoya I had no idea what direction I wanted to go in, but I had concepts of what I wanted to pursue in my piece. Creating a short documentary on immigrants was not an easy task, I think it takes more than 10 minutes to tell the story of immigrants, and with so many important topics I thought it was imperative that I tell and expand on each, however with such limited time and limited resources, it was wise to keep the story focused on one topic. One of the biggest challenges throughout this project was figuring out how I wanted my piece to look, how I wanted my piece to be conveyed, and why exactly am I making this decision, how is it important to me. As an immigrant myself making the choice of creating a documentary on immigrants was a personal decision that I was happy with making. Another challenge was having too much footage, not getting to put everything I filmed into this project was a big challenge, I felt as though I needed everything there for it to make sense, but less is more! One of my biggest obstacles was time, with scheduling, work, class assignments, and having time for shooting footage and putting it together, time was not on my side, especially since I was so caught up in knowing exactly how I wanted this piece to look. However, one of

my biggest helps was watching other immigrant films, they helped me understand how a story of such importance could be conveyed with such simplicity and emotion. Another tremendous help was story boarding, story boards were one of the many things I worked hard on, this is because a storyboard helped me figure out what I was going to shoot, help me tell my story more clearly and concisely. If I did not storyboard anything and layout the shots, I think I would have been stuck. Another big aspect of this specific piece was a script, the “script” I created was a list of questions, and when shooting and asking these questions there was always that possibility of the subject not knowing what to say or how to say it, so that was a challenge as well to know if I would’ve gotten enough run time on a single question, and if it would’ve been enough to tell the story clearly. In the post production phases of this project, I’ve enjoyed this part the most, personally I prefer post production rather than pre production and the production process. I enjoyed putting everything together, the color correction process, title cards, putting b-roll where it made sense, and finally seeing everything come together in the end and making sense, I like to put tiny details together to have one gratifying thing in the end, so the post production process was very enjoyable. I do think my skills in editing can be developed more over the years, and with more practice and mentoring, because the one thing that I did struggle with in the post production process was keeping a good pacing in the documentary. Since it was my first time doing a documentary from scratch, I did get a lot of feedback and help from fellow colleagues and mentors, however, when the years go on and I practice more, I do think I can polish up my skills. My hope for the future after finishing this documentary is that I can’t expand on the topic of immigrants and expand on my piece “ABE” more, I am very proud of how far I’ve come, and I will be even more proud if I can continue to expand this important topic more and develop my skills more to make even more meaningful pieces like this.