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<u>Progress Report #2</u>

       Prior to my first presentation that happened in late February, I immediately knew that the presentation I showed made me look unprepared as a student. I pretty much struggled with getting the overall message across to the audience and quickly grew frustrated at myself for not having a proper structure for my project. So what I essentially did was go back to ground zero in the midst of this creative process and decided that I am going to need a couple of things. These things included a script, a shot list, as well as a camcorder and tripod that I already had. The problem with the presentation was that I didn't really have a blueprint as to how I was going to get my idea to work since I initially came up with the idea of a film project for my fall 2023 as a Lower Senior. But being that I am a Rising Senior, I'd figure why not incorporate some of my own perspectives as to how I handled stress in the midst of my four years here at City Tech. As aforementioned in the previous progress report, I was going to break down why college student mental health is an overshadowed topic and provide my own experiences as evidence.

       To continue, the entirety of March allowed me as a creator to fully flesh out the thoughts that I initially had going for this project. I'm grateful that this month happened the way that it did because I was able to get so much done as a result. I used this project as a platform to not only create the ideas that I had in my head, but I was also able to further expand those ideas into something that felt meaningful and cohesive to me. So the process as to how I began filming was I would set my tripod up, and then create the lighting in my room. The lighting in my room was basically just turning up two of the lamps that were in my room and it helped the camera give a clear shot. Not to mention that my camcorder already comes with a built-in light. So I already knew that the production that was put into my movie was going to be successful. However, there was just one obstacle that I struggled with throughout the entirety of my filmmaking journey. This obstacle was making sure to get the right take, and this includes a multitude of things that I had to focus on. For example, what I usually did throughout this time of filmmaking was that I would get all of my shots in one take, including all of the bloopers that I had. These bloopers basically showed me catching myself whenever I would talk too fast or talk in a way that didn't feel confident. So ultimately, having a proper pacing and direction in my voice was the biggest challenge throughout my filmmaking process. Overtime, I would stay in my room until I got the perfect clip and the longest time it took me to film a confident take took no more than two hours. This specific section of the film that I am referring to was when I had to film my intro and conclusion, and I did it on the same day in early March. My first day filming was a very tricky process but when I eventually got it right, it genuinely felt satisfying.

       I gradually got more confident as a speaker in terms of delivering my ideas in a way that felt impactful. This definitely happened throughout March and some of my favorite shots that I've gotten included some B-Roll shots that I took. So for context, in my movie I discuss several destressing methods as to what I can tahini can potentially help someone's stress out and one of the methods was going out for walks. So what I successfully did was capture some nice B-Roll shots and I was genuinely happy with the result. Another portion of the film that I would consider a favorite of mine was when I was talking about how listening to music as well as

creative writing have been great destressing methods for me. I personally like this portion of the film a lot because I connect both of these points and explain how fun it is to find a passion and use it as a form of creative escapism. It pretty much encapsulates the overall tonality of my project and why I'm so proud of it because I pushed myself creatively while also having fun. I think that's the most important thing overall.

      Going forward into this, considering that I have one month left I think the next obstacle that I am willing to face is the editing process. The whole editing process for me was insanely fun to use, and the one platform that I had to use in order to push my ideas forward was Adobe Premiere. This was considered an obstacle for me at first because I never actually used Premiere throughout my four years here at City Tech. That is until now however since not only do I have a Culmination Project to complete that's related to film but I also have a Video Technology course during this semester as well. A way that I tackled the cycle of the editing process was essentially showing up to campus during lab hours to successfully work on my project. So for example, since I have Mondays off this semester, I would go to V217 on campus and use the lab hours to the best of my ability. I was able to figure out how jump cuts work and I had a blast stitching all of the clips together and experimenting with the software. Now what I have to essentially do for the remainder of April is to create background noise using Audition, and then convert that into a .wav file and then drag that file back on Premiere. What I also need to do for this remaining time is to work more on the quality of exporting my film. The first draft came out extremely blurry and that's because I exported it as an .mp4 file in Adobe Media Encoder. Once I am able to figure out the quality of my final product then I should be good. Nonetheless, this project has been insanely fun to work on despite all of the obstacles I faced. I am overall confident in this final product and I have created a better structure for myself both creatively and organizationally.