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### Final Reflection

Now that my film project I did for my culmination assignment has come into fruition, I would now like to reflect on my final thoughts about it. Firstly, I just want to say that the beginning stages of my creative process were relatively challenging. As aforementioned, I had a foundation for what I wanted to accomplish around February but I didn't take action into giving my project a general direction. From there, I wanted to make sure that I actually developed a blueprint of some kind and that came with a lot of useful resources. For example, one of my favorite resources that I have used was my script because it allowed me to fully organize my thoughts in a way that felt concise and cohesive. I would also say that my shot list was a great organizational tool that allowed me to keep track of most of the shots that I have created. It also gave me time to write down all of the dates where I was shooting footage. Lastly, some additional resources that I used was searching up some YouTube videos that helped me a lot in making this film a reality. YouTube videos including how to set up a tripod, how to add a black video on Premiere for the sake of making a title card, and how to add video transitions in between clips. Overall, these were the types of resources that ultimately led me towards success.

I'm grateful that I had the week off from April 23rd to April 30th because I was able to get the editing process ready for my project. I had all of my clips shot weeks prior to spring break so I used the week as an opportunity to cut and stitch all of the clips together. The biggest challenge that I had while editing the clips was that I had to watch every clip carefully to make sure there weren't any bloopers. Basically what I'm saying is that for every shot I did, it took multiple attempts to deliver parts of my script in a more confident way. Instead of filming a take where I delivered my lines better in just one attempt, what I did as a result was have multiple attempts in one take until I got it right. It was challenging because I had to constantly pontificate on what attempt was the correct one, and there were times where I would have my entire film ready but there was one blooper in there that I didn't look out for in the editing process. This ultimately made for a sometimes frustrating process but the end result became really satisfying. Another obstacle that I had to overcome was the audio work when creating my culmination project. A website that I used was Freesound, which is a site that allows you to play copyright free music. You can essentially download tracks in the form of a .wav file and then have those .wav files dragged onto Premiere. This was a great way to provide background music that matched with the tonality of my film along with the pacing of my voice. There's moments in my film project where I was talking about how meditative music has helped me with my anxiety. An editing moment that I personally enjoyed doing was cutting my background music off at just the right time so that the viewer can hear the ambient music playing from my phone. It added a lot of depth creatively into my work and I overall appreciated what my argument had to offer.

I'm also grateful for how I was able to incorporate Adobe Audition back into this project. I genuinely enjoyed working on audiovisual works for Sound for Multimedia and I learned a lot in Professor D'Agostino's course. To explain, I learned about what ADR(Automated Dialogue Replacement) is, which defines the process of re-recording audio over a video clip. I incorporated audio in my film project by re-recording audio of the B-Roll footage I used for

walking. Premiere made it an increasingly easy thing for me to apply ADR into my project and Audition was the blueprint for what got me into that to begin with. Furthermore, I wanted to point out that I used Audition to apply some audio effects like gain, fade, and reverb which helped give my background music a lot more depth. After completing my file that I had saved for Adobe Audition, I made sure to export it as a .wav file and then have that file be dragged and dropped onto Adobe Premiere, which made the editing process for the music more easier than I had anticipated.

I would now like to talk about my personal favorite shots that I took. As aforementioned, I still to this day am really impressed by the B Roll shots I took. Throughout my editing process, I chose background music that added to the atmosphere of the outside shots and that was something I genuinely liked from a filmmaking perspective. Moreover, I wanted to say that another highlight that I appreciated in my film was opening up to my audience about my passions. For example, throughout my project, I explain that I often collect physical media which ultimately explains the background that I have for my movie. It made for a really vulnerable part of the movie which revealing that side of myself was something I personally enjoyed doing. Incorporating my own personal views on mental health and how its affected me during the pandemic was a perfect way to further emphasize my argument. I'm a firm believer in knowing that the best art comes from vulnerability and authenticity and I was grateful that this film project made me open up in a way that felt confident. Furthermore, I really liked how I tied everything together and explained how creative escapism can be a great way to avoid all types of stress. This is definitely prevalent in the part of my film where I talk about literature and open up about my favorite book titled *Wonder* written by RJ Palacio. I explain how that book definitely helped me back then when it came to dealing with stress and it serves a very powerful message as a result.

In conclusion, I just wanted to say that I've really enjoyed this course as a whole because it allowed me to push boundaries creatively. I see myself becoming a filmmaker one day so I'm grateful that this course allowed me to express my passions in a way that felt healthy. I personally wanted to make sure that this assignment didn't feel like an assignment. I made sure that it was as fun as possible and I definitely felt accomplished in that regard. I'm especially grateful for the resources that I used throughout the making of this project and it helped make the creative process feel a lot more clearer and less cluttered. My biggest challenge as a creator is maintaining a level of discipline because the amount of ideas that were coming in at once while making this film was crazy. It led to me feeling very unorganized as a result during the first phase of this project, but as time went on, the resources I gathered allowed me to fully balance my thoughts out. It felt really good to have a foundation and overtime I grew more and more ready to deliver a project that I'm really proud of. I think this project was a great leeway for me to better foster better mental health discussion since it's such a constantly overshadowed topic. My purpose for this was to implement altruism and authenticity to my message, and I feel accomplished in knowing that I was able to successfully reach my goals. This project helped to creatively represent these goals and I'm looking forward to utilizing the skills I have learned into future works.