

Project Reflection

With is the end of this project: a video documentary on my mother's substance abuse and recovery looking back at where I started I'm proud of the work my roommate Steve and I put in. This experience has given me the opportunity not only to increase my skills as a director/editor but has also taught me lessons from daily life to making sure we have the right equipment to get the job done. Overall it was an enlightening experience

For this documentary it was very important that not only my mother be okay with me doing the documentary but also all of my siblings as well. Due to the nature of the content of the documentary I wanted to respect everyone's wishes, I don't think I would have done this topic without everyone's blessing. My father was the last to know about the topic because in the beginning he wasn't someone I'd thought would get brought up but when he did I asked him if he felt any type of way to which he answered "I'm not ashamed." This was also the answer my mother and siblings gave me about telling our story and I take much pride in my family for their willingness to share. In a small way this helped me with some of my fears, one of them being making a mistake/failing. My parents made some mistakes but those mistakes didn't define them or stop them from moving forward.

Lesson I believe that if not everyone most of us students had to learn is creating that work, school, life balance. Though we're still in a pandemic I couldn't tell you the last time my girlfriend and I went out on a date. She really was understanding and helpful throughout the semester with watching our puppy and more. If I could do it again I would definitely put room in my calendar for personal days, be that for spending time with the people I'm close with or just putting my feet up.

From the technical side we came across a few issues that I feel that are easily remedied than my daily life issues. One of the most challenging obstacles was dealing with both of the archived video and pictures. The pictures to me was the task I hated and loved to tackle. I had

to convince my mother to let me take a medium size suitcase home so I could scan the pictures. It started out as fun looking through the pictures but soon felt like an unending task as I took out bundles of pictures at a time and looked through them. The archived video had several issues of its own. First the 1993 camcorder didn't have a battery or charger. We bought a charger online easy, until we broke that charger and had to order a second one. With the charger issue solved we begin converting the analog tapes into digital. This is where issues two, three and four appeared. There was no audio being converted, there was a tracking issue and when the media was put in Adobe Premiere Pro the image was small. We were only able to fix one and a half of the issues. Adobe Premiere allowed us to scale the media up and with some of the footage we were able to hide the tracking issue but the audio for the footage just wasn't there. We had to work with what we had.

Once again this experience was overall enlightening. My family was able to tell their story: at some point my sister said it was like therapy for her. I was able to direct and edit something I haven't done in 3-4 years. I will still be working on this project after this classes is over and I'm hoping that anyone who watches it will be able to get strength from it, learn that you're not alone and if you need help all you need to do is ask.