Evan Mozeson

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Culmination Project

The project that I decided to work on for my Culmination class is to create a narrative film about me as an individual with a disability. The story is about an adult who uses a wheelchair that wants to explore outer space. The main character's name is Steven Jimeno, age 63. He could not explore outer space while in his youth because of his disability and his use of a wheelchair.

I based this fictional story about Steven Jimeno from the true story of Ed Dwight. Ed Dwight always dreamt of being the first African American to explore outer space, but he could not, due to racism. I switched the barriers from race to disability. The reason that I changed the barriers from race to disability speaks out because I am a person with a disability. I have Asperger's Syndrome and ADD/ADHD.

I am very passionate about outer space movies such as, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and many more. I have done a lot of research about outer space. I have seen many documentaries of outer space on Disney plus and Netflix. I have visited the Planetarium exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

I met with my advisor, Ryoya Terao, my Culmination professor, Prof. Adam Wilson, and my Culmination partner, Anthony Marrassat. Initially, I was interested in making this story as an animation film. Unfortunately, making a live-action version of the film was not possible, obviously because only astronauts could explore outer space. So I think making an animated movie about this particular story would be a good idea due to my passion for animated movies.

However, Ryoya said that making a narrative film or a documentary about me making the story would be a good idea, because I can connect my disability to Steven's disability.

On February 12, 2020, Anthony and I met for coffee to discuss what we could do to make a story like this to work. We jotted down ideas such as budgets, calendar, scheduling, methodology, deliverables, resources and much more. We agreed to start filming on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

There were other times where Anthony and I had to meet with Ryoya to discuss the film. Ryoya asked some questions that had to do with the film. Additionally, he asked me personal questions about my disability and how it could be portrayed in relation to my story. Some of the questions could be about family, social life and how I can relate it to Steven Jimeno.

On Tuesday, February 25, Anthony, Ryoya and I were able to team up with Jelani Barker and Nicholas Mallios to film a scene about me talking about the movie, *Disability In Space*. We were able to get Dean Gerarda M. Shields, who is the Dean of the Technology and Design, involved in the film, because she wanted to participate.

Along the way, I submitted my materials, such as, deliverables, methodology, scheduling and much more to the professor for his approval. Shortly after we began filming, City Tech classes were canceled on Monday, March 16, 2020, due to the coronavirus. Everyone had to work from home, and classes could meet virtually. On Sunday, April 5, 2020, I was able to send my ePortfolio and Meeting Slip 1 to Prof. Adam Wilson which I have already completed on my first day of shooting.

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020, I met with Ryoya and Anthony to discuss where the project will be going. Ryoya suggested that I emailed Anthony all my documents so he can have an idea where he is coming from. The reason why is that Anthony has been falling behind due to the coronavirus and issues with his family. While he was still doing what he needed to do, I was able to edit my film and have Ryoya take a look at it on YouTube. Ryoya gave me some good feedback but the most important problem I have is that I edited Dean Shields out of the video.

On Wednesday, April 8, 2020, I met with Prof. Adam Wilson. He was pleased with my work but has said that I left out Meeting Slip 2 and 3, my poster, my PowerPoint presentation, Project Reflection and I have to make sure I put everything up on OpenLab by Tuesday, April 14, 2020 before we are able to meet again on Slack.