

Joel Barbecho  
Project Reflection

I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to have choose this as my culmination project as it was originally not going to be a video project. It's crazy how much can change because I was going to do a tiny desk concert of myself performing and mixing the sound but ended up making a film. Kevin Perea asked if I wanted to be on the documentary team with Adam Valle and thought that it was a very cool idea. This culmination film project was very fun and had a lot of hard work put into it so people can enjoy it. When it was screened in the Voorhees theater, I was excited for my friends to see it because they have been anticipating it when I started the pre-production back in November. I feel very proud of this film project because there were so many times where I didn't know where the direction of the film would go because of the inconvenience of relying on another student's culmination project to film that would end up getting canceled. I pushed through with my collaborator Adam Valle, and we ended up creating a film that showed the aspects of our struggle of creating a culmination project and my friends of what they went through to run a student based and all the trouble they faced.

During the screening I heard a lot of people genuinely enjoying the film and laughing because I included funny moments and poked a little fun at the department in which the faulty found funny. After the film ended, I took a look behind me and saw that the theater was packed and was flabbergasted that so many people saw my film, I didn't expect that many people to have enjoyed it. I asked Professor Huntington what he thought of my film, and he said he enjoyed it and that it was nice to see students after the pandemic work together on projects and make things happen, that meant a lot to me because I always looked up to him. Professor McCullough also said that the film showed the unity of ENT City Tech students come together and that the film showed the struggles of what it is making a culmination project and the film captured those moments, he said that this was a good film to show to future students so they can see the process of a culmination project and the ups and down of it. I felt very proud that my culmination film project would be able to impact future students and can be used for future education. I did not expect that kind of response because the idea was to make a film that would be funny based on my friends and show that giving up was not an option in the film.

Before the screening of the film, I had to present to my class and was really nervous about it, I don't know why I felt like I wanted to puke. I know I put in a lot of hard work to make this film possible but the idea of presenting it was another feeling. I made sure I put in all the necessary details in the slide show and Professor Ryoya emphasized that the point of the culmination project was to show

the progress of the project and why people should be interested. When it was my turn to present, there were some technical difficulties because my hard drive was formatted to MAC not PC but luckily JR accommodated my needs. When I began talking I was just being myself moving around to get one's attention, I don't know if it was the delivery of my words but I had the entire class laughing and that wasn't my intention, but I had it all under control. The presentation went really well better than I anticipated because I was just being myself and that allowed me take control of the room.

The process of making the film is something that I'll never forget, and these skills can help me when working on future films. I got to manage and see the scope of being a director, writer, video editor, camera op, and producer. Working all these roles has honed my skills and given me a better understanding of what it takes when making a film. My biggest take is that anyone can be a movie maker, doesn't matter the budget or equipment you have, as long as you can craft a story together that's what matters. I wanted to show people that I didn't have the best equipment available but using camera skills and my video editing skills I was able to craft my vision. Adam and I incorporated many different influences that we both liked and even did some experimental editing. When I wrote the first half of the script the beginning, it was based off on how my friends acted in real life and I wanted it to make it feel authentic when the audience would be watching it. Shooting the first scene where it was handheld was fun and difficult because my friends had to act without messing up because it was a "one shot" that there would be no editing as it all played as one sequence. The scene that would play after that was one of my favorite scenes in the movie and the audience from the screening would also tell me that it was their favorite part too. It followed Adam and I going home in the train station going our separate paths and my idea was to synchronize these shots and play simultaneously with a cool song in the background, which the shot came out amazing. Upon completing that shot I would run into the problem of color grading that shot because it was a picture in picture edit meaning 2 clips were on the screen and in the editing timeline, so it was a bit complicated. I reached out to my video editing Professor Trevino which he taught me a lot, but I still needed help from him with the color grading of the picture in picture effect. Turns out it was a very easy fix and he gladly explained to me a few more times until I was comfortable doing the edit myself. Professor Trevino is definitely one of the professors who inspires me and has motivated me to want to become a professional video editor because he sees my niche for being able to put a story together with what I have. That's why when I was video editing the film, I knew what I was doing because I was confident with my video editing skills to put something together for people to enjoy.

I couldn't have done this project thanks to my friends Kevin, Valentina, Nesreen, and Daniella who allowed me to portray themselves on camera for the story. Adam Valle who was my culmination project collaborator, working really hard together to make our vision come to fruition. Finally also Professor Ryoya who was super supportive when he saw the process of making this culmination film project and saw Adam and I's vision.