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Culmination  
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Project Reflection

I feel that there are many things that happened during the time of this project that really took a hit on me, which in the end, resulted in my work on the project. There were many personal things that affected how I work (not just in this project, but in my other classes as well.) There were also technical issues that were mentioned in the poster's conclusion, which I'll take more in depth about.

Before getting into what affected me, I want to talk about why I chose the topic of creating a short documentary about small online businesses. First and foremost, the beginning of the pandemic forced many people to stay indoors. For me, I didn't mind it, but it did lead me to be on social media more. Naturally, I don't really engage with social media so much, at least that's how I saw myself with social media. Many things popped up on my feed, and all of a sudden, I saw products from small businesses. The more I engage in these posts, the more small businesses pop up. Then I realized that these businesses were only online and made by people with their skills and talent, which I really admired. I thought this was something that was really cool, but I didn't see much content that focused on small businesses that were solely online. I felt like this was something that would be showcased. Therefore, I decided to create a short documentary on a small online business's experience.

With that being said, that was the main reason why I wanted to create a short documentary online, as the business is located in Arizona, it needed to be done remote anyway.

Onto what personally affected me, the beginning of this year was difficult, one being for a very deep situation that happened to my family, which also helped me make a decision in doing this project remotely. Probably too personal to talk about, so I'll move on to my next reason. It's been about a full year of doing remote learning. I feel this really affected me because I feel so drained from doing online learning. I feel that I don't have a true time to relax since my room is a place to relax but also do all my work there. It's like a place of relaxation and a place of doing school is blurred, so I feel like I couldn't relax properly if that makes sense. It really affected my motivation to put up with another semester. Although this semester was the toughest because of the classes, on top of that, I already lacked so much motivation before it even started. So I had to pull myself through and make time to relax outside of my house. It may sound silly, but that take on my mental health was real.

Onto technical errors. When I finally done the interview, I had to cut down on the footage, which was really hard on it's own, as other filmmakers and editors could relate. Everything that Sly said in her part was extremely informative and great. I felt bad for cutting parts, but I believe I still kept the parts that were best to showcase. Working with graphics and on premiere pro was working pretty smoothly (in terms of it not being slow), up until a week before I had to present (literally exactly a week before presentation). I'm not sure if other people who worked with premiere pro had this problem, but when premiere pro updates, they update your project to the newest update of premiere pro itself. When I opened the file to continue working on my project. Almost instantly everything crashed. No matter how many times I restarted the computer, nothing worked. I even created a new project with my already exported project (which didn't have a handful of new shots and some graphics that I included) and work from that point. Even then, things weren't working. Video and audio couldn't play, and I was kind of freaking out because I didn't want my updated work to go to waste. I had to contact Adobe customer service, and I truly want to thank them for helping me out, I was desperate. They helped my situation (I couldn't entirely understand the situation as I'm not really good with knowing overall computer settings, but it had something to do with my graphics card).

I feel that these were the two big things that really affected me. I wanted to point these two reasons out because, usually when we talk about what we went through, we talk about the editing problems and how to accomplish something within the program (which I discuss in my presentation slides and poster). But these problems really made an impact on me.

Overall, when I look back on this project, I'm actually happy with how it came out. I feel like I achieved my main goal, which was why we should support small online businesses and support owners for their talent and skills. I feel like this is what I envisioned from the beginning. I am still awaiting additional footage on Sly's part, but I don't want to rush her into that, that is something that I can easily add in later. Other than that, I'm proud to accomplish this project.