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Culmination Project  
Self Reflection

Working on this project was very fun. I found a lot of content in what I did and would definitely do it again. I was able to do the things I love, videography, video editing, mixing and playing music, put it all together and make something that I can be proud of. The process was not easy. There were many issues that came up all the way from scheduling issues, people not being able to make it, importing problems and issues with editing but it was all worth it. In the beginning I had an ambitious idea for this project. I wanted to make a documentary type video about musicians. I am one myself and know a bunch of musicians that are friends and family so I felt this was something personal to me and I wanted to make something great. So I started planning, I found the friends and family I wanted to use in this video. I had a vision and I wanted to follow it well. But first came issues with scheduling. Since I needed to go to Syracuse to be with and record the musicians it made it a little difficult to take that first step of making your ideas into reality. I was stuck here with the idea but not able to do anything about it for a while. Eventually I got to Syracuse but I was not able to be there for as long as I wanted. I was planning to be there for about 3 days to take my time with recording but I was only able to be there for about a day and a half. So once I got there we had to work fast. One of the musicians was not able to be in the video because of some issues that came up but we made due with what we had. We took the first full day to set up and practice together at church, set up and record and interview and practice at one of the musicians house and then to set up and record and interview and practice at the last musicians house. Though each spot had its audio set up it took a bit of time setting up video angles, lighting and getting separate b-roll type shots in each area especially with how long we initially recorded in each location. After that we took the last half of a day in Syracuse working on the audio. I assisted with the mixing process for all audio done meaning the speaking and interview audio, the audio of the practice at church which was about 15 minutes of recording between 3 songs, the audio of what one of the musicians did for practice which was to make a song pretty much and then the guitar practice with the backing track. I assisted with the mixing. I didn't do it by myself so even though we didn't finish it that same day we got a good rough mix and one of the musicians said they would finish some details and send it when it was finished. After that I eventually started to transfer all the footage into Avid Media Composer. Didn't realize it while recording but between 4 cameras 3 locations and trying to get b-roll shots there was a lot of video that needed to be organized and then match up the audio to those clips which were also in pieces. The majority of the editing time and process was focused on organizing all the footage to know what is what and putting all the audio with it. Even in this process there were also issues with some of the audio files and video files that did not want to be imported into Avid Media Composer. After dealing with it for a while I realized some of the audio sample rates didn't match the project sample rate so I got the audio re-exported with the

correct sample rate and it was imported into the project with no issue. I never figured out the issue that the videos had but after giving it some time Avid Media Composer decided to accept the videos. With that finally together I took my time editing the video the way I envisioned. I had traveling shots, 5 interview questions answered by each musician, then the setting up and practice in the church where we practiced 3 songs for about 5 minutes each. I then wanted to follow that up with photos and videos of the musicians and I from the past till present showing how we have grown together and show a clip at the end of my dad who was inspired to start learning guitar about a year ago. The last section which was the collection of photos and videos was left near the end and took a lot more time than anticipated to put together. However I asked the musicians to help find some pictures and clips for this section and they helped out a lot. From there I made my first rough cut which came out to about 30 minutes. Though it followed what I envisioned, I knew this was way too long for the intended purpose. So I reimagined and made lots of difficult changes. When I first made the initial cut I felt I needed all the clips and details that were in there. But I eventually made the difficult decisions that needed to be made. I reduced the initial travel shots, I reduced the interview section to only 2 questions, While the musicians answered the first question there were already shots showing us getting the church set up for practice and after they both finished I showed a shortened clip of us practicing 2 songs instead of 3. Then the musicians answered the last question and I showed each of their individual practices and ended up showing a little less than half of the pictures and videos I wanted of our past and put a quick section about my father. Though I wanted to put and show so much more I think the finished product was great. I think it flowed much better, it got to the point quicker and would ultimately be a better watch for the purpose intended. I enjoyed working on this project and felt connected to it because of the topic being personal to me. I would love to work on more projects like this one but on a bigger scale. I love being able to dedicate my time to work like this to make the best product that I can that can make an impact and inspire others.