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ENG1131

Radio Show Self-Analysis

I want to start off by saying that this radio project was the most challenging part of this class by far. It wasn't challenging because of what was expected of us, rather it was challenging because of the immense amount of time and planning ahead it required in order to bring the vision that we had to fruition. In the beginning I was excited about doing the project, but didn't really know where we would start, just as I was with the two web projects. However, the difference between those and this was that once we did choose a topic and outlined what we wanted to do, it was still extremely difficult to make the finished product what we wanted it to be. Unfortunately I must say that the final project did not turn out as I had hoped it would. Instead being one cohesive, interconnected show, it ended up sounding like a bunch of interviews chopped up and spliced together.

The interview portion of our project was the easiest for me, probably because I had to take reporting for my major so I am very familiar with the process of interviewing. I wouldn't say that I am the best at it, but my experience helped me get through it the best way I knew how and I think that resulted in me getting some really good content. However, the problem that I found when it came time for us to put our interviews together was that it would have been a much better idea to have done all our interviews as a group, asking the identical questions in the same order. That way our show would have been able to flowed better because the editing would have been easier. I feel like that early error accounted for many of the issues we experienced later.

During this project I was required to take on many roles. These included interviewing, cutting and editing our promotional video, creating the power point for our class presentation, and helping with the cutting and editing of our actual show, of course. Of these, the roles that I enjoyed the most were the interview and the shooting and editing of our promotional video. Prior to this project, I had never shot or edited any type of video so I was really nervous about taking this on. Since it was my first time, I did experience some technical difficulties, but I think it still came out pretty good. I was proud of myself for the editing and of my group mates for digging deep and finding their inner actors.

The most dreadful and time-consuming part of this project was the editing of everyone's raw audio then trying to put each seemingly disconnected part together to form a coherent and stimulating program. I think that my group mates and I thoroughly underestimated just out difficult cutting down so much audio would be. Due to exams and other outside activities that each of us had to do, we kept running into roadblocks when it came to time management. If one of us were available, chances were that the other three weren't. It was just really hard to get together and work on our project together, which I feel is one of the reasons why it didn't come out the way we planned. When push came to shove, we ended up only having one day to edit everything we had recorded when we probably should of gave ourselves at least 3 to 4 days. I guess we didn't take into consideration how long it would take to just cut down our interviews without even adding the transitions, the intro, and the ending.

When my group and I first decided on a topic for this project, I had such high hopes for it that no one could have told me that it would have turned out this way. I refuse to say that out final product was a failure because I honestly don't believe that it was. What I do believe is that we could have done a much better job of creating the program that we set out to. In life, things always go wrong, but it is up to the individual or in this case, individuals, to roll with the punches and get the job done no matter what. The latter is what we failed at. When the fists started punching, we were unable to handle the all the blows. However, I still think that my group did the best we could with what we had. Yes, it could have been better, but everything can always be better. At the end of the day, I am still grateful for this experience whether the end result is good or bad. I just wish that I had a chance to do it all over again, the right way.