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Critical Reflection

This past semester I learned a lot about digital writing. Not only did I achieve a better understanding of its definition, I was also able to enact my newfound knowledge into creative projects that span various mediums. Included in my final portfolio are four projects that I am very proud of: An audio movie review of the film *Peanut Butter Falcon*, a documentary about tuition costs at CSUN, a wikipedia article on musician Alice Longyu Gao, and PSA (Public Service Announcement) about suicide. It was extremely fun putting these pieces together and I am very happy with how they came out but, I would be remiss if I didn't admit that they could've been improved.

The first entry in my final portfolio is my audio movie review of the movie, *Peanut Butter Falcon*. The audio mixing of the different layers of audio are pretty good but, I found that improvements could've been made with the actual content of the podcast. I found that the background music that plays throughout can become quite repetitive, and at times unneeded. I originally kept it playing to make the review feel less empty when I was talking but, in retrospect, I see that my voice audio could've stood on its own. I also thought that the review relied too heavily on audio clippings from the movie. The ratio of me talking and movie clips is 2:3 and I think that I could've spoken more. I am being very nitpicking but, overall I really enjoy this review and after listening to it again, I think that it still holds up.

The second entry is a documentary I made with my group about the costs of tuition at CSUN. This is a project that I was very happy with, and that has a lot to do with the work dynamic I had with my group. We all varied in our experience with filmmaking but, everyone was on task with their individual responsibilities and pulled their own weight. We filmed a lot of interview footage prior to the indefinite suspension of on campus classes (due to COVID 19) but had still planned to film more. But with the lockdown orders we found that we weren't going to be able to get the additional footage we needed. However through our editing process, we found that we actually had more than enough. If there was anything I could change with this project, I think it would've been to round out the documentary with the addition of interviews with CSUN faculty but, all things considered I think that it came out pretty well.

The third entry in the portfolio is a wikipedia article about an up and coming musician, Alice Longyu Gao. This project proved to be quite the tough task. This is due to the fact that — although she is very popular— Gao is still very new to the scene. Our group found it difficult to find a lot of information on her but we still managed to pull through. It was also a challenge to figure out the editing devices on the wikipedia website, so there was also a bit of a learning curve there as well. All in all, the article came out to our satisfaction and I think all of my fellow group members could agree that the only thing we could've done differently would be to diver even deeper into the depths of the internet to find more information on the artists. However, we might've needed to visit the future via time machine to do so.

The last and final entry in my portfolio, is a public service announcement I made to spread awareness of a couple facts about suicide. This project blew my expectations out of the water. I filmed the footage a little while ago as I was helping one of my friends move out of the

dorms (due to COVID 19). It was a very stacked day —as we had a lot to pack— but, seeing that this might be my last chance to see a lot of my friends I decided to bring my camera to enlist their help in banging out this last project. We were under a lot of time constraints and I had to move quickly, so I wasn't expecting much from the clips. However, when I was editing them I found that they fit perfectly into the message I wanted to convey. I spent a lot of time with sound editing and color grading the clips. If I could change anything I think it would be to truncate the narrative a bit, as I did exceed the time cap of 60 seconds, as the final project is around a minute and a half. I was super surprised and impressed at myself after completing this last one but it gave me a greater appreciation for the power of the editing process.

These projects were very enlightening into the creative process of digital writing and I am glad that they all came to fruition. I am also so thankful for my time in this class, and the tools that it gave me. I am a bit disappointed that its time in the physical classroom was cut short but, I am grateful for the moments that we were able to share.