

DOCUMENTARY EVALUATION – RYAN PEEBLES

Working on the documentary project with my group was a valuable experience given the skills and techniques I learned throughout the project and the way I was able to input into the group and the overall final project. One of the best points about working within the group was the idea generation throughout the conception, and production phase of the documentary project.

Every member of the group were constantly challenging ideas from each other with the overall goal of pushing the project to be the best possible incarnation of itself. This also kept ideas fresh and helped each member of the group see the project from different perspectives to aid in their own personal opinion of it and forced them to think outside of the box when it came to the development of the project.

One part of the project that I feel could have been better was the overall organisation of the schedule and the group being able to work within the deadlines set. Often times I would find the group had spent sessions working on the project yet accomplishing very little to push it towards the finished product and I found myself having to give them regular pushes to go out filming or to organise interviews with prospective subjects.

One of the main problems we faced was in regards to our chosen subjects dropping out of the project and a lack of contingencies on our part to fill their space so it at times felt as if the documentary had changed vastly from its original pitch to the final product. Which given a simulated industry setting would be a completely unacceptable way to operate. However I felt the group reacted to the situation professionally and worked with what they had available to them to be able to create the documentary.

Given the opportunity to re-attempt the documentary product I pay more focus towards the group's ability to work in a timely fashion with the overall deadline firmly in mind at all times in order to avoid any situations where an extension of the deadline may need to be granted. Also I would ensure we went into the project with stronger contingency plans in regards to subjects and participants potentially dropping out of the project in order to cover ourselves in that specific scenario.

Overall I found the general experience of the documentary project was a great learning experience in regards to finding potential flaws in our group's filmmaking skills that can be addressed before tackling more industry standard projects.