



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

FACULTY OF FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA
SFDM Major Project Stage 1 | M6X01898

Assessment 2: Portfolio and Self Reflection

Name: Nur Serena Airin binti Shahrul Effendi

Student ID: 1910325

Lecturer: Dr Brett Aggersberg

You can view my portfolio here:

It may take a while to load.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/c8t3P08Qgt2YU/>

SELF REFLECTION ESSAY

Now that the submission for pitch presentation and portfolio is near, it is safe to say that my journey throughout the one month since I got here, which was guided by Matt Jones, Brett Aggersberg and Timi O'Neill, has given me an experience I value immensely due to the fact that I have now a better insight about what pre-production is all about. My journey in this fast-paced learning process started even before I flew from Malaysia to the UK. In the beginning, I already had an idea of what my film may be about and I was certain that the theme of the film would be 'grief'. This idea sparked when an unfortunate event occurred, which was that a friend of mine, Deva Roobhan, passed away on the day of New Years. Everyone was shocked and felt truly saddened by the loss, especially for my friends and I, as we all (with Deva) were only two to three weeks away from flying off to Carmarthen for our final semester. The fact that we couldn't have him join us on this joyous ride that we all have been excited for really left me speechless for quite some time. I was very fond of expressing my sorrow and transforming it into something real and meaningful.

I was positioned in a group consisting of 6 people, with the guidance mainly coming from Dr Brett Aggersberg. My experience with the teaching and learning system here in the university has been really impressive, contrary to the system we have back home in Malaysia. To be frank, when Brett enlightened us with the work that we will be getting involved in through a Skype video call back in November last year, it made me anxious. Knowing the fact that all of us are required to produce a film project for the course really made me question my capabilities due to the lack of skills or knowledge I have about production. I would like to think that I am not quite knowledgeable in this area of media. However, once I arrived and after a few classes run by the lecturers, slowly, I gained some ideas and tips that I find will really help me in the near future if I were to venture in filmmaking.

The biggest hurdle for me during this process was definitely the fact that I had a difficult time in finalizing a full, promising story that I would be proud of. At first, during my early stages of developing ideas, I'd like to admit that those ideas were very vague. It was either too cliché or too complicated to understand and execute. Many times, I would think of a great idea of what my film would be at first, but then as I go in deeper in planning the whole story, everything just does not make sense and hence, I lose hope for the idea. To add, the idea of coming up with a good film with a good story really took a toll on me because my knowledge on film is really limited, considering that I am not a movie-junkie like my friends where grasping on an idea would be easy for them. Coming up with a creative, authentic and fresh idea seemed impossible with the lack of information about movies that I possess. Other than that, I pointed out to Brett that I do not have the adequate knowledge on operating with cameras and such. My self confidence really took me on a roller coaster during this phase as I felt like I was not good enough to be in this field of media and to execute the project. The fact that it was only the first stage of the whole project got me even more unsure about myself and my creative capabilities. Getting on a more personal level, the past few semesters of my degree have made me feel unworthy, insecure and doubtful of my potential. I realized that I have lost an incredibly large amount of confidence that I once had. In my mind it feels like I have lost my ability to come up with creative ideas and that I have certainly lost my leadership skills that I was once so proud to have.

With hurdles came hidden strengths that I discovered about myself. However, it would not have been strengths without the support and guidance that I received from my lecturers, especially my consultation lecturer, Dr Brett Aggersberg. The classes in this course have been really informative and made clear and easy for me to understand. After each one-on-one tutorial, I find that my confidence would boost up even the slightest. The reason I say this is because I would walk out from the tutorial meeting with ideas in mind that would enrich my film even more.

I was a bit hesitant on producing a film all on my own, however, not long after, I was able to look at it in a positive way because I'm given the opportunity to take control of what I really want and how I envision the outcome to be. This gave me some space to gain confidence and clean up my rusty leadership skills in a way that the choices I made would determine everything and of course, I would want to make a story out of only the best ideas that come to mind and fully assess the pros and cons of my actions and decisions. I managed to do plenty of research that would support my idea and eventually finalized on an idea which I would like to believe is a story that I'm very much proud of.

Not just that, I am very pleased with the fact that I am able to go out of my comfort zone completely, especially in a foreign country far from my home, to try out new things and challenge myself. From this experience, I would like to see how far I can go with the resources that I have here, which are, safe to say, pretty limited but it does not stop me from still wanting to take risks and facing my fears. I'd like to believe that I'm really trying my best to see just what I'm really good at, and that the story I'm producing is definitely something that I have never even come close to before.

Overall, I'm really happy with the story that I have come up with. I appreciate that Matt and Brett were very much on board with what I have pitched during my presentation and gave full support on it. I am excited to move on to the next two stages, which are Production and Post-Production. It will be interesting to see how learning about these stages could help me enhance my skills on operating cameras, audio, lighting and editing.