

Self-Reflection Document

Chronicle in Carmarthen. That is the main title of my project for this course. This project is about experiencing the lifestyle of Wales and Carmarthen specifically. This project is divided by the video of me experiencing different aspect of Carmarthen. Food, sports, and tourist attraction are the three main aspect that I will focus on for this project. The reason for me to do this project is because Wales is usually overshadowed by the glorious name of United Kingdom or London. Therefore, I want to divert the attention to different side of UK that people should know in this case, Wales. Hoping that this project will help people to recognise Wales and would consider it as a place to visit. I believe by doing this project I will also can understand the life and environment that this place can offer.

Finding in between of documentary and vlog is my initial idea of how to approach the audience. It's perfect to get the casual of a vlogging and the formality of a documentary so that the audience could get more information about the content of the video at the same time not being too formal about it. Learning the concept and the approach of the project was the main thing before I start to do the planning and research phase. With that, I identify my strengths and weaknesses so that I would understand the obstacle and challenge that I may be going through throughout the project. The main strength of the project for me was the curiousness of learning the way of life of the local. With that, I allow myself to open my mind and eager to learn the culture of the local people here in Carmarthen. On the other hand, being in front of the camera, talking to it in public was never my forte. I was never confident with myself to talk alone in front of the camera, sharing stories and being able to deliver it. This was one of the challenge that I need to overcome to make this project successful. I'm fortunate enough to get a lot of support from people around me and also convinced myself that this is the perfect time to learn a new skill that would definitely benefit in the future.

Considering my strengths and weaknesses, I was able to construct the planning schedule and structure of my project throughout my course timeline. I gained new knowledge on how to make a good filming schedule by using the Tom's Planner. Tom's Planner offers good features that help me to create a proper schedule to make sure that everything is on schedule. Research phase of my project was unexpectedly smoother than I thought. The Carmarthen Quins replied my email about my project just a day after they received mine and were more than happy to help me with the project with straight set me for appointment with their board of directors. Most of the place that I wanted to film does not require any paperwork before the actual filming which makes the planning phase easier. For example, the Carmarthen Quins rugby club only requires my student ID to make sure that I am a current student for the university. There are only a few places that I need to be careful not to film a person that doesn't want to be in it especially when in public places. When I was filming at The Palm Cays store, they told us not to film any other customer because some customer might get uncomfortable with it. It was not a big problem as I only need to film the environment of the place and the food that they served. Doing research about the castle gave me much information on how to get there. As Carmarthen doesn't have much of public transport, I have to look for other alternatives as it is around 20 minutes of driving from where I live. This may increase my cost of filming, that I need to reconsider my budget.

Filming process for the Carmarthen Quins was rather gone smoothly because me and the board of directors already set up the date so that I could get ready with my equipment and content planning for the filming. The chairman, Jeff Davies personally brought us to the training pitch at Crosshands in order for us to go and film their training session. We were thankful that he would help us with the transportation which is the main concern for us to go there without any form of transportation. Filming the training session was a wake up call for me that filming the project. With the cold winter weather at night was a challenge for us to focus on the filming while fighting to get ourselves warm. Took us quite a while before we got used to the weather.

and continue filming throughout the night. Filming the food section on the other was easier. This is because we tend to film everything indoor. One thing that we don't need to worry about is the weather but at the same time, filming indoor required a lot more sources of light. Finding a good angle was one of the challenge that we faced. As for the castle section, we delayed the filming day a few times before we finally get to go. This is because everytime we plan to film; the weather just won't allow us. Even if it's light rain, we can't go to the castle as it is dangerous to climb up the castle during wet day. We have to wait for the perfect weather to go and film. This brings up another problem because everytime we plan film, we need to book our camera equipment beforehand. Most of the time that we booked our camera, we end up didn't go for filming as the weather wouldn't allow us to. I finally get to film the castle video 3 weeks before the dateline and it made the editing process a bit rushed.

Overall, the filming went well with the planning that I already planned expect the slight latency of the filming date. This may cause urgency for the editing part but I end up cooped very well with the situation. Filming vlog is a new experience for me. Learning the equipment that I had and try to work with it is important in order to get a good shot. Selfie shot undoubtedly the most difficult shot to do as I can't see how I look in the camera and also the length of focus for the camera lens as well. The first few filming shots was a struggle to understand and learn the mechanism of the camera before I get used to it. There are also moments that I should've recorded because I know it worth the content that I want it to be in the project but fail to do it because of the memory capacity and shortage power battery.

Going to the editing phase was really a struggle and challenge for me. This is because it was my first time using the Adobe Premiere Pro software. Before this, I was comfortably use Sony Vegas software as my main editing tool for videos. Premiere Pro offers me more features that I can use for my project that can really be helpful. Plus, the Premiere Pro software that I use is always updated from time to time so that I can easily get the latest version of the software.

Usually the update is about adding new features and also removing bugs while using the software. This is the reason why my initial plan was to give me at least a month preparation for editing process. I acknowledge my lack of skill for using the Premiere Pro, so I end up giving myself more time for the editing process to learn and get use to the software. Another advantage of using the software is that I can link the audio of my footage to Adobe Audition to edit the audio part. Wales is a very windy country and when it's windy, it can get harsh. Since most of my filming are outdoor filming, I was fighting with the wind to make sure that my voice was captured by the camera. Unfortunately, my fight with mother nature was a complete failure as majority of my outdoor footage was filled with the sound of the strong wind. This is where the Audition become handy. Audition allows me to cancel a lot of the wind sound and make the important voice clearer because its mostly overshadow my voice and other much important sound. I can appoint that Audition really help me to lift up the quality of my videos in terms of the audio. Having the chance to learn new software give me a new experience and learn new skills for video editing.

Vlogging is not a new video genre especially on YouTube. With extremely experience vloggers like Casey Neistat, Peter Mckinnon and Jon Olsson, I can see that my project is still got a long way to go to compete with those channels. In term of visual quality, audio quality, and content delivery, my project still got to improve more if I want it to be at the same level as them. As they are more experience in doing this kind of video, they know more on what kind of angle they want to get, how it will turn out on the video and also proper planning that they had already become their cup of tea. Having a proper equipment for a certain shot also played an important role in production process. Compare to my video, I can see that I'm going toward the level of more experience people in the industry. Considering it's the first time for me doing this kind of project, learning the editing software for the first time, I am pleased with the work that I have done.

In future, I hope that I can get the chance to continue doing this kind of project and hopefully to become better than what I have done with my project. Eventhough I'm positive that I could do better with the project, but I also believe that I can improve better next time. Having more time to plan, filming and editing will help me to improve more. Other than that, learn the mechanism of all equipment that I have, and utilise it as much as possible will improve the quality of my project next time. I also want to thank everyone that helped me along the way from starch to make this project possible. Everyone have been helpful and motivates me to make this video much more engaging and enjoying to all the audience. I hope that people will like the video and giving encouraging comments for my future project.