Documentary evaluation:

The task that was given to me was to create a documentary and use my own knowledge and editing skills to demonstrate my ability to being able to edit my own production in the aspect ratio 16:9. The type of my documentary was observational this is because the aim of my production was to inform the “Google generation” 18-30 about the old Bradford Odeon and the history behind it as well as the impact it had on the people who lived in the city as well as the future of the building.

Planning:

What went well with the planning was the pre-production this is because I was able to keep to the questions that I had written down in my script. In addition to this, I was able to plan out the storyboard as well that would help me get a better understanding to what I want to get out of my production whilst I was filming it as well as keeping me on track regarding what questions to ask the interviewee instead of going on a tangent. Additionally, the proposal went well this is because I was able to explain what my documentary was about and who my target audience was as well as backing it up with sufficient evidence and examples that would be in a similar style of editing to my documentary along with the style of documentary.

What didn’t go well with my documentary pre-production was the risk assessment and call time sheet this is because during the pre-production phase I sent an email off to the interviewee and they replied before my call time sheet and risk assessment was complete this in turn disrupted the pre-production and planning and I had to film the interview first. In addition to this, finding interviews didn’t go well this is because the interviewee’s either responded at the last minute or could only do the interview for 30 minuets as they had meetings to go to. Furthermore, finding people to help as well was an issue because I had to find someone to film my documentary with me and write them down on the pre-production paperwork as well.

If I was to do the pre-production documents again, I would focus on getting the risk assessments as well as call times done before sending emails off to people asking for interviews. Furthermore, if I was to do the pre-production work again, I would improve my time keeping on the pre-production to help me be able to complete all the pre-production paperwork in a valid time frame and not go over the time frame for pre-production that would see it clash with the production of my documentary. The extra time would also allow me to go over my pre-production to ensure it is to the best of my ability and to the highest grade.

Production:

My documentary went well this is because the audio for the documentary was of a good quality this is because in addition to using the camera microphone, I also used a boom mic as well this was to ensure I was able to pick up clear audio that was clear and loud enough to listen to. Moreover, what went well with the production was the time keeping this is because I was able to get all my production as well as B roll within 2 weeks giving me sufficient time to collate all my footage into one place so that it can easily be used when required.

Furthermore, the production went well because I was able to successfully interview two people for my documentary and ask them the questions that I had written on my script as well as the position of the camera as well this is because I was able to get natural light to help with the lighting of the camera as well as applying the crossing the line rule in the production as well.

If I was to do the filming again, I would change the position of the interviewee so that I’m not relying so heavily on natural lighting. Additionally, I would also film the production again at different angles as well so that way I can cover multiple angles with the camera giving me more options when it comes to editing/postproduction.

Editing/postproduction:

What went well about my editing was the title sequence this is because I was able to download a template online and change the template to relate to my documentary this included replacing the background of the template and replacing it with a map of the location the documentary is set i.e., Bradford. Moreover, the audio went well because it was clear and helped in the process of unlinking from the clips for further editing this included audio gain and either making it louder or quieter this can be seen on some archive footage I have acquired where I had to make the audio quieter so that my target audience can hear the voice audio.

The transitions within my documentary went well as well this is because I ensured I didn’t have too many transitions I.e., fade to black that it swamped the entire production I ensured that these transitions were included where needs be and not in there unnecessary.

The stages of editing that didn’t go well was exporting the edited title sequence this is because of the file size as well as the number of layers that were on the title sequence. In addition to this, editing certain clips was an issue this is because in some clips the interviewee didn’t repeat the question so I would have to go through the entire clip to find when the question started/ Finished.

If I was to edit again, I would include end credits to my documentary this is because of the time frame that I was given didn’t allow me to add end credits to my documentary. Moreover, I would also edit the clips for even longer to ensure an even smoother transition between clips is less noticeable as with some segments of clips you can see the jump from the end of one clip to another. If I was to put end credits into my documentary it would help signify the end of the documentary and not just go straight to black. Moreover, if I was more precise with the editing it would look more professional and the audience wouldn’t be able to recognise a cut between each clip.

Peer assessment:

To get feedback on my documentary I was tasked with doing a showing of my documentary to my peers in the class who would give me feedback on my documentary and what was good about it and what I could improve. The feedback that I acquired from the showing suggested improvements to the audio quality this is because the audio didn’t have an effect this can be seen in my title sequence where the audio didn’t have a crossfade. However, the positives that were taken from the documentary were the diverse range of images that were used in my project as well as the effort to go out and get interviews for my documentary.

Conclusion (If I was to do it again how could I improve it)

In conclusion, the overall project was a success with two interviews being showcased within my interview as well as using diverse imagery within the documentary to show on screen what the interviewees talking about. If I was to improve, I would add transitions to the music that is played at the start as well as change the volume of the audio. I would also improve it as well by adding an end credits to the documentary as well to signify the end of the documentary instead of it suddenly going black.