Evaluation

Introduction

We were asked to make a short 5-10 min documentary about whichever subject we chose. For my documentary, I decided to make it about conspiracy theories, I chose this subject due to having prior knowledge and interest in this topic. The topics that I decided to talk about in my documentary included, area 51, the moon landing, 9/11, covid 19, and flat earth. I chose these subjects as they were the most common theories that I found when I began my research. To begin my project I had to write a proposal about my documentary in which I outlined what my short documentary would include.

Pre Production

To begin pre-production I began by outlining my initial idea which involved making a mockumentary about conspiracy theories. I initially chose to make a mockumentary as I find these modes of documentary's the most enjoyable to watch. In my proposal I included my target audience which when making my project I had to remember so it would be appropriate for them to watch. However during production I changed from my proposal of making a mockumentary to creating an expository documentary. I chose to make this type of documentary as it would be the best way to show my short documentary for my target audience. My target audience that I chose was 16-25 year olds. This was chosen as I tried to make my documentary a YouTube type project and that age range that I chose determined what type of video I was going to make. After I completed my proposal I had to begin filling out a pre-production document, this document included a shot list, production schedule, equipment list and a list of people who were included in my project. This document was vital for my project going forward as I would use this when I get to production. If I were going to do this project again I would include more detail in my pre-production document as there were times during production I would look at my document and struggle as there wasn’t a lot of information on this. I was then tasked to created a script for my project which would have to include relative research that I conducted to present my documentary. I made my script in a different way to the conventional way of creating a script, this script included different facts that I found from conducting research about each topic that I chose to talk about in my documentary. I found this a different but effective way for my script to be presented, along with the facts I also wrote some notes for each topic which would help me during production.

Production

To start production I had to book out the equipment that I had to use which included a camera, tripod and a microphone. My first shoot day began and I had stated in my pre-production document that I wanted to film my documentary in a photo studio as the white background and setting in that room would’ve been perfect for what I wanted to film, however this room was pre booked on the date that I had for filming so I had to use a different setting for my documentary which wasn’t as good as the first location that I wanted to use. If I was to do this project again I would try to book out the room in advance so then I could use the location that I wanted to. I would also add a secondary shooting day into my production schedule in which I could be able to use the location that I wanted. When I was shooting the first take of my script It wasn’t going as smooth as I wanted it to due to multiple interruptions from people walking into the camera shot or interrupting the audio, therefore this led to the shoot being very stop start, I also kept looking down at my script which didn’t give the professional look that I was trying to create in my documentary, because I was looking down at my notes it gave the impression that I didn’t know what I was saying which would’ve made the audience lose interest and not listen to the facts that I was discussing. If I was to do this project again I would make sure I learn my script or I would book out a tele prompter which would help me look into the camera when delivering my research in a professional manner and give my documentary a more skilled and experienced look which would help with audience retention as I was doing a YouTube type video that would have been key. Due to the many interruptions when I was doing my original shoot I thought of an idea which would be to have a voice over with footage playing over my voice instead of just having a static shot. I chose to do this as I thought it would give a professional look into my documentary and I was also struggling to make my documentary between the 5-10 minuet mark that was stated in the brief, originally the footage that I had filmed was only 2 and a half minuets after I cut out the interruptions and cleaned up the footage by cutting out my stuttering from the audio. So I had to then find a few more conspiracy theories to discus in my documentary I chose to talk about Covid 19 and 9/11 conspiracy theories I chose these topics as they were very popular and had a range of theories about them that had a lot of views from the public eye. These topics I would talk about with a voiceover and stock footage over the voiceover, I chose to do this as it would lead to my video looking professional and keeping the audience retention high throughout my documentary. However the audio that was recorded for the voiceover was much better quality then what was recorded when I first shot parts of my documentary this lead to my work sounding a bit strange but it was something I could fix in post production.

Post production

To begin post production I gathered all my footage that I had filmed or collected from production and put them into my Premier Pro file to begin starting to sync up the audio with the video when I had finished doing that I encountered a problem which I discussed earlier in this document where what I had already filmed would’ve been way too short to fit with the brief. After coming across this problem I had to stop my post production work and go and film my voiceover. When I had completely finished filming and collecting all my footage I could then begin editing. The editing process was quite easy due to my past knowledge on the software so I feel very comfortable and confident using it, therefore this process went without any issues. After I had finished editing I thought of doing my introduction scene/ title sequence a little bit different then the conventional way of doing it. For the introduction I thought of the idea of gathering footage of the different conspiracy theories that I was talking about and adding audio clips over the footage to create the mood that I was looking for straight away. I also chose to do this as it would help with the audience retention, I believed that if the audience was hooked on my documentary then they would keep watching. If I was to do this project again I would use my time doing post production more effectively and include end credits into my finished documentary. This would give my project the finished look and bring an end to my project.

Feedback and improvements

When my project was finished it was shown to my peers and I received feed back on my documentary. The feedback included different areas on which if I was to do this project again I could improve and change certain parts. Most of the feedback that I received was about the audio levels though my project, this was because the audio though parts of my project was different to other parts. If I was to do this project again I would make sure all my audio levels are the same and that there is consistency throughout my documentary. The other issues that were recorded included my voice throughout the documentary not being very enthusiastic while talking about the different theories. To fix this next time I need to put more energy into what I am saying this will lead into the audience being interested in what I am saying as they will be able to hear that I am interested.

Conclusion

To conclude I feel like this topic was successful and unsuccessful at the same time. The successful parts of this documentary include the final project I completed as I believe it is completed to a high standard and I deliver my point very well and inform the audience on each different theory. I also believe that my introduction scene was one of the best things of the whole project and started my documentary of in the best way possible. However my overall documentary didn’t fit the 5-10 minuet brief that I was given as I was about 30 seconds away from the 5 minuet mark. The audio was also a problem that I had and if my audio was the same thought this would’ve been a very successful project.