**Final Project Evaluation**

Within this section, you should reflect on your skills, knowledge and understanding. Reflective writing is evidence of reflective thinking and analysis.

You are therefore required to apply this reflection to the success of your project. This may require you to revisit your ongoing evaluations throughout the project to make some judgments on the quality of the finished project.

You may wish to revisit your aims/objectives and your 0069nitial production plan – did you meet these? Did you stick to these?

HAVE YOU USED A REFLECTIVE MODEL?

RELATE TO THE INDUSTRY WHERE POSSIBLE

MAKE SURE YOU REFLECT FORWARDS – what will you change in future?

How do you develop as an artist/filmmaker/marketer/director/producer, etc.?

What do you hope to achieve in the future? Get more work, create more YouTube content, etc.

**Final Evaluation Questions:**

1. What was the main aim of our project, and did I/we achieve it?
   * My main aim was to tackle common negative stereotypes that surround madrasahs; by showing the reality and clearing any misconceptions anyone had about children learning in madrasahs and I achieved it.
2. Looking back, how could the planning process have been more effective in preparing for the final project?
   * Time Management. Unfortunately, I have always struggled with time management, whether if that is in an exam or in my coursework. Time management has never been my strength, but this time it was not all my fault. How? It is no secret that educational facilities are remarkably busy, and trying to get a hold of the AP is a mission on its own. If we had been in frequent communication, and if we were not on a strict deadline, I believe the planning process would have run smoother. Not only was I on a tight schedule but so was my 1st AD & the person we were originally going to film.
3. Did we/I make any big changes to our project along the way, and why?
   * Yes, we had to change the project last minute as the student we originally were going to film, her parents pulled out. Luckily, we had a contingency plan in place. We quickly contacted another student and changed the project slightly to align with him.
4. What went really well in our project, and what did not go as planned?
   * As far as my project goes, the filming went well. What did not go so well was the communication between all parties involved. Because of the original student pulling out, we had to change the project to our contingency plan. I am partially at fault for this because I did not send over the proper documentation to the right parties on time. But it was a collective agreement within their family and that there was nothing we could have done.
5. How well did we work together as a team on this project?
   * I believe that as a team we worked brilliantly together. I had an amazing team with me, and I had an incredible amount of help from my teacher who sacrificed his time and dedicated it towards my project.
6. Did we receive feedback from others, and how did it help us improve?
   * I received feedback from my Course Tutor and my 1st AD which helped me to build a plan and gave me the tools that I needed to begin the production process.
7. What did we/I learn from this project that can help us/me in the future?
   * Time management is key and that we need to collect Release Forms from all individuals who will be casting in the show. Furthermore, that a contingency plan is vital because of the very reason my project had to change.
8. Were there any unexpected issues or events that impacted our project?
   * An unexpected issue that affected my project was our first main cast backed out because of an internal family decision. This led to our Production Team having to use our contingency plan.
9. How would you rate the overall success of our performance and project on a scale of 1 to 10, and why?
   * I would rate the overall success and project on a scale of six. This is because, I still have a lot of work to do and a lot of experience to learn. I still need to learn the ins and outs of effectively using a gimbal and troubleshooting when it stops working or we run into an issue. I also realised that when using two different cameras, you make life even hard for yourself.
10. Evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses.
    * When it comes to evaluating myself, I do not give myself the recognition I deserve. I scrutinise myself even at my strengths because I believe that I can always improve even if I achieved something good. However, for the sake of my evaluation here is a list of strengths and weaknesses.
    * Strengths
      + Organisation & Planning
        - As the Production Manager, I was able to keep the project film dates on schedule when set by creating a production plan, booking the equipment, and coordinating the filming times effectively.
      + Leadership
        - I took a leadership role as the Director & Production Manager of my project. I managed the small crew we worked with and made sure everyone was clear on their individual roles. If it were not for my team, my project would have not been successful, it was indeed a group effort.
      + Technical Competence
        - Despite not ever using the Sony FX6, I confidently operated it for the first time and managed.
        - Furthermore, despite my lack of experience with a gimbal I was still able to gather good shots with the Sony A7S III.
      + Collaboration
        - Collaboration is a strength at which I am good. As an Education & Welfare Officer for the Students’ Union, I have been able to work on many skills and one of them being collaboration.
    * Weakness
      + Time management
        - One of my biggest challenges is time management, this is because of my symptoms of ADHD. I do not only struggle within my course, but this is a daily struggle I face. I struggle in exams as well, so time management is something that I am always trying to fix.
      + Sound Quality Challenges
        - During the Postproduction, I had to record some VO’s but due to the ambient noise differences and my lack of knowledge within Adobe Audition I struggled with perfecting the VO’s.

1. Evaluate your group work (if working in a group)
   * I collaborated with a team of two other individuals, one of whom was my teacher (1st AD) and the other who was the brother of the starring child. As we were a small team, we had to make up for the many roles we could have had. I, managed the cameras – starting them, stopping them etc. I also managed the Sound, starting and stopping and synchronising them together.
   * My teacher (1st AD) was a significant help, managing the script, making sure that if Adam forgot any lines, he reminded him and kept him in check.
   * Samee (2nd AD) helped me with the Cameras and helped the 1st AD.
   * In terms of evaluating our group work, I believe as a group we did an amazing job, my could not have helped any more than he already did, and Samee was a huge help on set.
2. Evaluate individual performance.
   * As the Director, Production Manager, Editor etc. I played a significant role in making this project possible, from the original Planning stages, Pre Production, Filming, and then also all the Postproduction work.
   * I do believe that I could have done a better job, as I still have loads to learn but it comes down to experience Aswell.
   * My performance from my perspective was good, but as I mentioned I still have loads to learn and to build on.
3. Evaluate project development issues – communication, presentation, technical issues, etc.
   * Communication
     + The communication between the Production Team and the Academy was not the best. It was hard to get a hold of the Academy as they are extremely busy. My contact was also even more busy as he was leaving the country the same week we were scheduled to film.
   * Presentation
     + We originally struggled to create a narrative for the project, which also contributed to the slow production time. After many hours of thought we finally had an idea in mind, which we drew onto paper and scrutinised, which leaded us to refining it a few times.
   * Technical Issues
     + We faced a couple technical issues, such as low battery, mismatched colour profiles and the gimbal playing up. To counter this, we tried to film everything we could before the cameras died, I removed the second camera from the interview, and we also did not give up on the gimbal and eventually we were able to make everything possible.
4. How could you improve in the future?
   * Improvement on communication skills, time management and technical skills.
   * I would use instead of two different cameras, the same camera to make my life easier.
5. What did you enjoy the most and least in the project and why?
   * The most enjoyable parts of the project where, number 1, recording because I had the ability to get hands on experience with the Sony FX6 and also the DJI Ronin RS4, I also enjoyed parts of the editing as, I really love the joy of seeing everything being put together, RAW and then seeing the fully edited version. The least enjoyable part of the project personally would have been all the paperwork, even though the paperwork is imperative to pass, the pressure of not completing it on time gets to you.
6. What work did you do in and outside of college to develop your project?
   * My core idea, I spent developing inside of college researching common negative stereotypes the media portrays madrasahs as. I also worked on pre-production documents such as the risk assessment, location recce, and shot list. I used my class time to plan interview questions, build, and refine the script, and gather feedback from my tutor.
   * Outside of college, I also put time into pre-production documents that needed to be edited, I attended meetings with the Academy so that we could work on a production plan together.
   * I also worked at college to edit the full final video, synchronising audio files, adding motion graphics files and recording any VO’s I needed. I remotely coordinated with my team, specifically, my 1st AD to make production decisions and share drafts for feedback.
7. How effective was this work in preparation for your final project?
   * The work I conducted both inside and outside of college was effective mostly in preparing me for the final project. During college hours, I used my time to plan, create shot lists, risk assessments, and interview questions.
   * Outside of college, I used my time to conduct the location recce at Al-Mustafa, coordinate with madrasah staff, and arrange the shooting dates.
   * One area I could have improved on was the postproduction planning. I did not fully consider how long it would take to colour-match two cameras with the lack of knowledge I had.
8. Rate the thoroughness of your preparation, including your adherence to your rehearsal schedule/production plan.
   * I would rate myself a seven out of ten. One of the main aspects that went well was the sticking to the scheduled film dates and times. We managed to shoot on time, which helped us stay on track with the overall production plan.
   * However, not all the paperwork’s and documentation were completed on time. This included documents like the risk assessment and shot list which should have been completed and finalised at a much earlier date. Due to this, I felt more pressure during the production, which reduced the amount of time of post-production tasks like editing and collecting feedback.
   * Even though I was still able to submit the project, the delay and added unnecessary stress made parts of the process feel rushed. If I were to do this again, my aim would be to complete all planning documents earlier to avoid last minute pressure.
9. In what way did you collaborate with others during your project?
   * During my project I collaborated with many different people, both within my own team and externally. Within my team, I worked very closely with Mudassir who my first assistant director was. He helped me organize the shooting days and manage time on set.
   * We also had regular communication with our main cast member, Ali Ahmed Adam Khan and his family, to plan filming times around his school and madrasah. Furthermore, I collaborated with the staff at Al-Mustafa Academy to gain access to the Academy.
   * In terms of the production, collaboration involved clearly giving roles, sharing feedback on our ideas, and solving problems as a team; especially when we faced technical challenges. My teacher played a vital role in giving feedback during the planning process, which improved the structure of the documentary.
10. Discuss and assess the success of your collaborations.
    * Overall, the collaboration during this project was a success. During the filming, the crew communicated well, everyone understood and followed their given roles. There was a sharp vision that everyone shared, which helped us stay focused on the project.
    * Role sharing and communication were particularly strong. For example, while I managed the production, Mudassir supported with on-set coordination, which made the filming much smoother.
    * One thing that did not go perfectly was a delay in the setup during the second day of filming. This significantly slowed down the start of filming.
    * Collaboration made my project stronger. Working as a team allowed us to combine our strengths.
    * I have learnt that teamwork really does make the dreamwork. If it were not for my team’s support, dedication, and commitment this documentary would not have been possible.
11. Rate your commitment to and engagement with the project.
    * I would rate my commitment and engagement nine out of ten. I was fully dedicated to my documentary making sure it was completed to ambitious standards. I spent hours outside of college timings, including many all-nighters working, editing, planning, and reviewing footage.
    * I believe that my engagement with the project was powerful throughout. I stayed involved in every stage of the production from pre-production to editing, colour grading and mixing the tracks.
    * If I could go back, I wish I had gathered more feedback from a wider audience before finalising the edit.
12. What professional qualities have you demonstrated during this project?
    * During this project, I demonstrated several key professional qualities. One of the most important qualities was time management. I balanced my college schedule with overtime outside of class, including staying late and working overnight to complete all the work on time.
    * I also showed strong leadership and communication skills, especially in my role as the Production Manager. I organised shoot days, communicated with my team and Academy staff, ensuring that everyone knew their roles and responsibilities.
    * Another important quality I demonstrated was adaptability. When we had to change the plans due to a member not being able to cast, I stayed composed and found a solution quickly.
13. How would you improve this project if you were to undertake it again?
    * If I were to do this project again, there are a few areas I would want to improve. The first of the being time management. While I was devoted to this project, I often left tasks like paperwork and planning too close to the deadlines, which added stress and decreased the time I had for editing.
    * I would also focus on completing pre-production paperwork earlier, such as the risk assessment, and media release forms. Getting these out of the way in advance would make the production process feel more organised and professional.
    * Another improvement would be to gather more feedback throughout the process. I relied on my own judgement and team discussions, however external feedback from people outside of the project could have been a huge help in improving the documentaries structures.
    * Next time, I will set clearer deadlines for paperwork, schedule feedback sessions during the editing phase.