Evaluation unit 9

This unit is the first unit since we got back to college and it is about characteristics and context. I am nervous about this unit. For this unit as a class we got set out to create a five-minute film in the style of an auteur in a group. We had to choose a director that was considered an auteur and create a five-minute film. My group chose Christopher Nolan as our auteur. As a group we all researched into what’s Christopher Nolan’s auteur signature styling. We decided as a group how we are going to incorporate his signature style into our five-minute film and make it appeal to our target audience. We had a production meeting about what our five minute film should be about and in the production meeting we all said our ideas and then we decided to go with Kacper’s idea but with his idea we made some changes along the way. Kacper told us our idea and that it was about a character from a video game we had to make some changes because we did not want to rip off the game so we made some changes of the narrative. My final product that I created did reflect Christopher Nolan’s signature style because when I got peer feedback from my classmates, I got told that my five-minute film had suspense and violence. From the footage that I received it helped me select the idea of my five minute film because from the footage that I received it made more sense to do it that way as it showed Christopher Nolan’s signature style.

In researched many different things. In my research I looked at the history auteur theory and what makes a director an auteur. I also looked at what directors are considered an auteur I found a lot of directors are considered an auteur. I researched about the auteur that my group has chosen. I looked at Christopher Nolan and who is he, what makes him an auteur and what is his signature style. As individuals we had to do a 10-minute video essay about Christopher Nolan and what makes him an auteur. In my essay I talked about his auteur styling, the colours, his life and more. For our essay we had to create a script I found it difficult to write the script. We had to record our script and source all our stock footage whether it was images or videos and edit them with the audio that we recorded. As group we did a questionnaire together in the questionnaire we asked about our idea and what they like about our idea we distributed the questionnaires individually on reddit and on our social media. We got many different responses that helped us with our idea and what we should include and not include in our five-minute film. On my website I analysed my questionnaire and it told me what they like about our idea and dislike. The most significant research that I did was about Christopher Nolan and the auteur theory because I was able to learn something new and what makes Christopher Nolan an auteur. The most effective method was when I researched about the auteur theory and our idea and what we could include. I found the questionnaire was most effective method for me because we were able to get good replies that helped us with our idea and what we could change about our idea. My research portfolio can be improved because I could have gone into much more detail about the topics and I also want to be able to get a good grade and learn something new about what we are learning. As I completed the project, I realised that I could have researched more about how to light the set better so that it does not look yellow by doing this I could have watched videos or asked for help. I think that I performed well as a researcher because I was able to look different topics that relate to the unit and at different websites. My research skills have developed since year one because over the years I have learnt to investigate different websites but I could look at books and journals rather than websites.

As a group we encountered many different problems like when we went out to film on Wednesday we had the wrong battery for camera as a group we tried to get in contact with Tracey so what we did was wait till Thursday and told Tracey the issue we had and filmed what we needed to film on Thursday evening. Another problem we had was trying to confirm our narrative as a group we decided on different things that we can include in our narrative and how it will represent Christopher Nolan’s signature style. I have demonstrated many different skills throughout the unit that will helped me. The skills that I showed throughout the unit was communication and teamwork because we had to work as a team and communicate for this unit to be successful. As we went on, I used different skills like planning so that everything is prepared for when we go into filming so that we have everything we need so that we can move into production. In production we filmed in the TV studio on Thursday where I used my lighting skills so that the Tv studio is lighted properly. I could improve on my lighting skills by watching tutorials. In Post-production I used my editing skills so that I can edit my five-minute film in the style of Christopher Nolan. With the different skills that I used I could improve on all the skills that I used in this unit but throughout the year I can always improve on those skills. The problems that we faced when we were filming did not affect our idea as much as we thought because we only had to film the on the Thursday as we could not film on the Wednesday.

In pre-production I demonstrated many different skills and qualities that helped me to complete the different paperwork that I had to complete. During pre-production I used my planning skills so that when it comes to filming, we have everything prepared and planned out. For example, I had to do a lighting plan so that I know where I was going to place the lights in the TV studio I also had to do the budget plan of what all the equipment costs. Throughout the unit I had to communicate with the rest of my group to make sure I had all the details and that they are correct. I had to communicate about what research we did in pre-production in production meetings. For example, when we had to do a production meeting about what research we did about our idea. The thing I found most challenging is pitching our idea to Tracey and to the rest of the class I found it difficult because I was nervous and scared on how the pitch was going to go and how I was going to perform during the pitch. I found filming really enjoyable because I was able to see our idea come alive and the different techniques because this was the first time using a stabiliser so I was excited to see how it turns out. . I also found editing enjoyable because I was able to create the narrative of our 5-minute film in my own way and learn different editing techniques for example rolling credits and the graphics that I created. My time management was alright for this unit, but it can always be improved throughout the year. As a group we made sure that we sticked to our proposal schedule so that we can be on schedule and not run on time. As a group it was important that we made sure that we had a contingency plan so that if something went wrong, we had a backup plan and that we know what to do and that everyone knows what it was.

My final product of my five-minute film did meet my initial intentions because I wanted to make my five-minute film in the style of Christopher Nolan and because I wanted to create a film with suspense and violence. My five minute film does meet our target audience because we had to add a rating to our film and the rating that we chose was age 15 onwards because when we researched in to the rating we realised that age 15 and onwards could watch our film as there wasn’t much violence in the film and because from what answers we received from our questionnaire was mainly from them. We met our target audience needs by incorporating the ideas they gave us from our questionnaire into our film. The strengths of my five-minute film were that there is suspense and violence of the film because it represents Christopher Nolan’s signature style. I also believe that researching was another one of my strength as well because I was able to look at different sources and learn something new about the topic but I can always improve on my researching skills by adding more detail to my work. I know my final product can be improved in many different areas like the audio in my five-minute film as it peaks in many different places. I could also improve on my lighting skills because watching the footage back I realised that TV studio lighting was yellow so I could learn more about how to fix the colour of the lighting in premiere pro by editing. From this unit I have gained a lot of knowledge from this unit because I was able to learn about something that I did not know about so looking at the different sources and watching videos will help me to know what I need to include in my work and this will help me know more about the topic. My final product does reflect Christopher Nolan’s signature style but I am not sure that it does reflects the industry standards because even though it has transitions, graphics, rolling credits and effects in the edit it could still be better because of the lighting in the TV studio and the audio levels in the edit peaking. For example, in Christopher Nolan’s films his lighting is clear, and the audio does not peak like mine did. My Graphics is probably as good as Christopher Nolan’s, but it could have been better. I still need to work on my audio syncing techniques and the audio transitions so that when I next edit my audio will be better.

For this unit I think that I could challenge myself and set the bar higher than I because I can improve on different things like my pitching skills. I did find it difficult to set my own schedule and setting my own brief because I get mor work done at college than at home as I have many different distractions at home. What I learnt about myself is that I need to be more confident because I need to work on my pitching skills. I also learnt that I need to step out of my comfort zone more often rather than doing things that I am comfortable doing. I have identified gaps in my knowledge like how to light a set properly, so it does not look yellow. I have also realised that I need to learn more about editing so that I can improve the next time we edit so it is better than this one. What I will do next is when we pitch again, I will practice my slides more so that I am more confident in what I am saying. The next steps I will take with my editing is that I will watch videos and follow the steps and make sure that I understand it if I don’t understand something I will ask someone to explain it to me.