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AP Literature

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Reflective Essay

For my Senior Project I partnered with Alana Spayd and we decided to make a farewell video for seniors. This video would consist of smaller (around 6 second) videos that parents, friends and family recorded telling their graduate congratulations and other messages. This is then put into a large video that is usually longer than 5 minutes. This is a repeated Senior Project but for the past few years, it has been one of my favorites.

This senior project has been so much fun to work on, and has been an incredible experience. However, although I loved this project it has been a fairly difficult journey and for me especially (I don’t know about Alana), it has caused quite a bit of stress. Once we got through all of the difficult stuff, the rest of the journey has been a whole lot easier. The biggest challenge of our project was that it relied on the help of other people. Originally, we thought that it would just be on the parents sending in video but has we dove into the project we found that others needed to keep up on their parts as well. The communication process is where the most difficulties were found. We needed the schools help so we could send out an email,text or phone call to parents. After about a week of planning and getting everything together; Alana and I gave them a draft of what we wanted it to say. We set the due date for our video a week later, assuming that the communication would be sent out that night. It turns out however, that the communication wasn’t sent out until a day before our actual due date. This caused problems because parents believed that it was too late to send in a video. We ended up extending the due date until June 1st, in hopes that people would send in more video. We now have a good about of video and the editing process was super simple and didn’t take long at all. The only left to do is add a few more videos and add music in the background. It then has to go to Mr. Bragg so it can be aired during the Oil Spill on Friday.

With all of the complications that arose during the process, We had to reevaluate the process in which we approached things. We are told that good leader delegate work, and in a sense that is what we did but it caused more problems. Alana and I then had to take on a more do it ourselves type of approach just so we made sure that it was finished or the task was completed. We constantly began checking in the offices to make sure what we needed down was finished and most of the time it wasn’t. So a new type of leadership was formed during this project but overall I think it will help us when we work with people later on in our life.

Advice that have for incoming seasons who are working on any senior project is that you or your group needs to plan for more time that you think. Alana and I set a timeline at the beginning of our project but we have needed a lot of extra time. Luckily, we set our plan so far ahead that not everything messed up. So plan for more time because it is a lot better to finish your project ahead of timeline but it becomes difficult if you need to go over. Additionally, if you are going to have a group make sure that everyone will do their part. I personally did not have a problem with this all year but classmates, and teachers always can tell the students that don’t do all of the work and it just makes the process for everyone else a lot harder. So keep everyone accountable.

One aspect that I really enjoyed about this project was that I got to learn how do some new things. Although we made a “This I believe video” and got to work in video editing, with this farewell video I was able to go much deeper. To edit the video, we worked in Mr. Onstotts room. The program used was Adobe Premiere and this is program is much harder to navigate then “We Video”. This is something that I have been wanting to learn more about and this project allowed me do that. It helped that the video just had to go side by side, so it wasn’t the most complicated thing ever which is very good for all parties involved.

Overall, this was a very good project and I am glad that I participated in it. I cannot wait for the rest of the school to view the video on Friday and I hope the response is very good.