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Writing 220
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The Making of Project 3

This project was a fun one for me. It was a continuation (in part) of the second project. After writing the short story *The Afterlife* I didn't really know what to do. I had just finished the longest piece of writing I had ever completed, and I had to find a way to bring it into new media. I mean, I wasn't even sure if I was ready to move on from the short story yet. However, by the demands of Writing 220 I had to move on and start the new project.

I had many ideas at the onset, which were really just reaching for something that was suitable for the project. Because I had many ideas and little solid direction, I chose to wait until I met with my teacher to talk about different options and ideas. This was good! Had I made the decision on my own, I wouldn't have done the same project that I did. In fact, of the four ideas I proposed in the proposal, I didn't use any of them. I used the idea that my teacher suggested; a trailer for the story or a longer version of it.

So, when the prospect of a trailer came into the fold, I was very interested. This form of media allowed me to keep the story as it was. I didn't have to change the story really at all. Instead, I was able to make something in addition to the story, something to help make it even stronger. I liked this aspect of making a trailer, and I think that's why I ultimately chose to make one. My other options all would have been great projects, but this one was the best fit for me.

Actually making the trailer was really fun. I don't own a Mac, but our class learned how to use iMovie in a previous class hour. I decided almost immediately that I wanted to make the trailer with that software. This left me with the problem of finding a Mac to use,

and then actually having access to it until I finished the project. Originally I assumed I would go to the library and just use a school computer, but I had more fortunate circumstances arise. My housemate Zach Reilly let me use his Mac to build my trailer, and from start to finish, he pretty much gave me free reign over the computer and helped me with any technical difficulties I had. Without his help, the project would have been harder for me.

At this point I had already been thinking about how to make the trailer, and what images/video I could use. The first thing that popped into my head to use was images and video from *The Bucket List* with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. Because of the context of the movie the images lined up well with some scenes from my story. I can't say that it is a perfect match, both stories are quite different. However, two friends, both cancer patients, both die, and both of them go through changes on account of meeting and being with each other. So it was a close enough topic and the images were similar to what could be imagined from my story.

Then, the stars aligned and I had a good night to sit down and construct the project. When I opened iMovie I noticed something I didn't remember from the in-class demo, a trailer option. Naturally, I thought '*Well, I am making a trailer, use that*' and clicked on the trailer option. This allowed me to pick a theme for my trailer (I chose friendship), and then the program gave me a template to build the trailer from. At this point I just had to fill in the blanks with the words/images/videos that I wanted. I found all of the clips and photos that I liked, and put them in. At the end I had to go back and change a couple things up, but the trailer looked good. I actually had a script with narration/quotes from the book that I was

going to use, but it seemed unnecessary and possibly detracting from the trailer after I built it.

Below are other relevant pieces that contribute to this project

Annotated Bibliography for Proj. 3

The Bucket List. Perf. Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman. Warner Home Video, 2008. DVD.

I used the bucket list for images and video for my trailer. I thought that these images would help convey the feeling of my story.

Project 3 Proposal

I have had a couple ideas about project 3, but I'm definitely unsure about what path to take, and which one is the right path. The subject is still about death and the afterlife, and to some extent coping with these concepts. The original piece was a short story, so I have to change it into something very different now.

To do this I have thought about turning the story into a screenplay. I have never written a screenplay, so this would still be another way for me to stretch. However, for a short story, I feel like a screenplay with no production isn't good enough, is it? I would hope to have some sort of production of the screenplay to accompany the script itself. If I did this I was thinking about animation possibly, with help from groundworks. Otherwise, maybe get some friends together to put the show on, or to have multiple voices, and just do voice recordings for each character. If I went with the voice-acting path, then the audience would be for NPR, or some radio show that puts on stories.

In connection with that last idea, I thought I could do a *This American Life* style story for Ed and Frank, record it and then the audience would be radio listeners as well. If I did this, I would try and delve a bit deeper into my characters to bring forth more history and interesting life events. Then the focus would be on the events in the story, and there would be some more exploration there.

My third idea is to write a song about the story. This would include both lyrics and some music. From that point forward I would just work on getting a good recording for the final project. I'm unsure about the exact audience for a song, because it really depends on the style of music I choose to write in. At that point more audience consideration could be made. However, since I don't know yet if this is what I will do, I don't have an audience in mind.

I have also considered doing a recording of the whole story, like a book on tape. Yet, this seems like too little work for the project, and it also doesn't seem to truly change the piece much at all. However, if this is a viable option, I could still consider it.

Potential sources for this project would be a lot of radio. Specifically I would look at NPR and *This American Life*, but also any other station or show that airs stories. If I wrote a song I would have to pick a genre first, but then I could create a song specific to the genre, and I would research that specific genre.

If I write the screenplay I will have to read over a couple screenplays to see the details of the style. I would also research into the exact medium a screenplay would be used in (play, movie, series, etc.) as I'm sure there are some differences between genres.

I haven't decided necessarily on any of these options, but I'm leaning towards either the radio story, or the song. I can't wait to talk to you about the project, and hopefully get some guidance for moving forward.