

Zenith Reflection

I chose to make a mockumentary for my Zenith since I've always enjoyed satires and parodies. I love over the top and absurdist comedy shows like "The Eric Andre Show" and "Nathan for You". These shows poke fun at life and just how stiff and grumpy some people are. They break the mold of social norms and lighten the mood by breaking down all these serious expectations we created for ourselves.

Originally, I wanted to make a mockumentary that made fun of high schoolers rampant drug use and an ineffective and selfish high school administration that hides problems to get better school ratings (all fictional of course). The sketch would feature an interview with a school security guard in the back parking lot boasting about cracking down on delinquency while a drug deal occurs right behind him, and a principal whose shredder is labeled "suggestion box". However, this idea seemed too critical to me and I wanted to do something more lighthearted since today's society is already gloomy enough. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I wanted to make a fun and creative project that people could laugh at without feeling a sense of sadness for the world. Since MVHS senior assassins was going on at the time we were assigned the Zenith project, I thought it would be a relevant topic to my audience of MVHS and Freestyle seniors.

Using my screenwriting skills I learned this year in Film, I worked up a script draft. However, during this project I struggled with my desire to simply start

without a concrete plan and improvise ideas as I went along. For my personal projects, I usually follow my heart instead of a script. But as I learned with my senior narrative project, it is *very* helpful to have a plan. My self-direction skills were greatly strengthened with this project as I was the one responsible for both setting and meeting deadlines. My creativity also shone through as I came up with funny and over the top ideas for a character who took senior assassins too seriously. One of my favorite bits was how the main character, Danny Jones, kicked his own parents out of the house because he couldn't trust them to keep his location safe from potential assassins. I worked with quite a few Freestylers and am so grateful for their incredible acting skills and generous giving of their time to my Zenith. Looking back, I definitely feel like I crushed it with this project because I was able to take all the pre-production, production, and post-production skills I learned from Film and Digital Media and mastermind a large project by myself. I've always loved making funny, silly videos and this was no different. I don't think I would have done anything differently except maybe reshoot the interview scene with Danny Jones because I felt my performance wasn't exactly the caliber that I wanted, but I am still pleased with the end result. I encourage anyone reading or listening to this to always be yourself and do what you actually love to do instead of trying to meet an expectation.