**Project #2 Reflective Analysis**

The story that I attempted to complete in project #2 was to create a sonic essay that demonstrated the benefits of joining a Greek organization, specifically a sorority on campus. Since I had shed light on some of the negative attributes of Greek life in my last assignment, I wanted to look at the possessive side of joining one of these organizations.

For this assignment, I started by making recordings of three very different events that occur in my sorority. The first of these recordings that was used is from a long tradition put on by seniors every year. They sing a song around the rest of the chapter and its always a fun and entertaining experience. The second set of recordings was two “chants” or songs done by AOII during recruitment. These chants are done as potential new members come into the room during recruitment as a peppy introduction. The final recording was of just background audio before a chapter meeting began. These are meetings where the entire sorority is required to attend every Sunday where we go over what events are coming up or anything that needs to be voted on or addressed for the upcoming weeks.

I wanted to compile this audio to give the listener a perspective from inside the sorority. Not all of the audio that is heard is something that someone involved in Greek life would get to experience. My audience is therefore people who are not involved in Greek life and probably more so those not involved in one at Miami University. The purpose of this sonic essay is to get those skeptical to be more open minded about Greek organizations, and show that is more to them other than the social aspect.

I had also recorded 3 different interviews with 3 of my sorority sisters about their experience and time in AOII. Initially this was awkward for them because asking them why they joined a sorority and expecting deep responses was challenging. Their answers all kind of varied, but the vibe was similar in that they were happy with the decision they made. I asked them various questions like if they felt they had grown as an individual since joining, and their sense of belonging at Miami because of joining this organization. ­

Another element that I chose to add was to incorporate some written word from a YouTube video put up by the PanHellenic Association, which is the governing board of sorority life on campuses. They made a video promoting joining a sorority, which is inspirational. I like how they presented the information so I tried incorporating some of that into my sonic essay.

I introduced the sonic essay by starting with the song the seniors do every year instead of starting out with spoken word to make it interesting. Then I introduced the topic by utilizing the words from the PanHellenic YouTube video. Incorporating a mix of both the interviews and sounds from various AOII events, I think it will give the listener a good perspective. I also overlaid my voice and edited the interviews so that they sounded more consistent and so that I could utilize my time for the sonic essay more wisely.

The one issue I had been with the interviews. I did gather some good audio but the problem came in that I got nervous interviewing or the person being interviewed had a lot of pauses or would say “ummm” a lot. I had to take the time to cut down the 7+ minute interviews each to about a minute or two per girl for audio to be used for the assignment. I had to do a lot of picking and choosing what information was most valuable for the project. Another issue was that I was not sure how or if it would be considered fair use to utilize the words that were in the Youtube video. Although, I consulted with another student in the class as well as looked up the information from class on February 18th and considered that as long as I cited it in this paper it would be appropriate. I also had known may other schools had made their own version of this video and posted them on YouTube therefore I considered it would be appropriate. I had also had some issues with understanding Audacity. I felt that initially it was easier to edit with Garageband that it was with Audacity because the tools in Audacity are not as straightforward as Garageband.

Works Cited:

NPCWOMEN. “Our Potential. Your Move.” Video Clip. *Youtube.com*. Youtube, 29 Nov. 2011. Web. 14 March. 2015.