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Chapter Seventeen Assignment

The Shoot

For almost a year, I have been studying directing, producing, and screenwriting. I have had many chances to work on my filming skills as well as cooperative mindset, but that was usually while working for or on someone else's idea. This was all aimed towards my screenplay. Working on this opportunity has been an eye opening experience and definitely a stepping stone in my future film career. Every time I use a camera, start writing, or even setting up lights, it slowly helps me learn what I should and should not do for the next time around.

In this recent shoot, we had to do a scene that was made for later on in the evening and night time. However, my actors were not available at those times, so of course, we shot during the day. I have never really had to shoot during the day and make it look like a night setting, so the footage didn't quite turn out as planned. I definitely need to work on my lighting skills as well as having the proper exposure settings on the camera for such instances. I ended up shooting a bit darker than I thought so that will just mean I will spend more time editing the footage than I could have.

Another stumbling block while shooting was the framing. With the lens I have, I couldn't get as wide as I would have wanted to since we were indoors and in smaller rooms. However, I learned to just work with the equipment I obtain and use it to the best of my abilities. It is my goal though to always improve those abilities. I tend to enjoy

working well when it either comes to editing, cinematography, writing, or recording sound compared to being the best at just one of those things. It interests me to be able to be as resourceful as possible to still get the job done in the proper way and filling in any spot that is needed. Having more skills also allows you to have different mindset when it comes to the production of a film.

Once you have started editing your work, you realize that you really didn't need to shoot so much footage, or maybe you needed to shoot more footage. When you start writing, it helps you when you're shooting so you know what exactly you need to shoot. Also as an editor, you need to realize how often the cuts are going to be that flow with the story when you write. All roles are vital to making the film, some I have nowhere near mastered, but I am not going to quit.

Over all, this shoot was more of a learning experience than for fun I guess you could say. My friends and I did have a great time filming this and we look forward to making other short films with each other. However, if I had not tried to shoot a night scene during the day, I would have never known how to do it. I may not be the best at it now, but I definitely know what I must do the next time I attempt shooting something similar. Filming is always going to be a learning experience and I cannot wait to continue growing my skills and even developing new ones along the way.