

During my high school career, I have been involved in numerous video projects through my school's EAST and AV and Film programs. The projects that I have worked on vary from comical videos about the Grinch to an orientation video for the Garland County Detention Center. Each of these projects have required different processes in order for them to be completed. Most of my video projects have been complete ideas that have been proposed to me. From there I continued the process by beginning to film and then edit the video. My newest video, which is the video I have entered for this competition, was different from all of these processes.

The idea of an active shooter informational video was given to me by my EAST facilitator, but this was the only direction that I was given on the entire project. Once I had the idea, I began researching the "what to do's" in an active shooter situation by looking at websites and talking with my school's resource officer. From sorting through this information and looking at other video examples, I put together a script along with a shot list that correlated to the voiceover. Once the script was written, it was sent to multiple personnel from my local sheriff's office. After being checked by different people, I began the filming process for the video.

This was by far the longest filming process that I have ever gone through with a video project. Part of this came from the myriad of shots that had to be filmed in order to get the video's idea across to the viewers. The other reason for the long process came from the troubles of scheduling a time to film with officers at the school. Once a date was scheduled, we met the officers and filmed on a Saturday, so that the school was empty.

This day of filming is by far the best time I have had when working on a video project. It was stressful, but it was a great experience. I had to direct the officers in what I wanted them to do and I also had to set up all of the different shots. The most complicated part of this was making sure I got things that correlated with the script and got everything that was necessary for the video, since I only had one chance of filming with the officers.

The hardest part of the entire video came after the filming, which was the editing of the video. The editing for this video proved to be very time-consuming and complicated. I have always found editing to be a way to express my creativity by showing how I believe information or a narrative should be presented to an audience. I am able to put together different points of view and create something that is, in my opinion, in the best possible format. Along with editing, came the task of learning photoshop for the clipart aspect of the video, along with deciding the best ways to present the information that wasn't teamed up with a set of clips.

Going through this process has shown me how complicated the entire video making process is. It is draining both creatively and mentally, but it is still something that I have grown to love. This process has also helped expand upon my skill of positively accepting feedback and making changes for what is best for the video. Overall, I feel like my experience in filmmaking has very positively affected me as a person and will continue to impact me as I continue into my secondary education and career.