

**Journalism and Media Studies 4**

**Name:** Nomathamsanqa Mbekwa

**Student Number:** g04m1756

**Executive Producer:** Paul Hills

**Assignment:** Write a self-reflective review of about 1000 words on your 10 minute documentary.

**Deadline:** 25 May 2007

All in all, I think Bloomers is very productive team, once given an assignment we work very hard on it to its end- the 10 minute documentary on Zimbabwean intimidation on campus was no different.

The camera woman on this piece, Sarah: is a very hard worker, in some ways she holds the fort together. Sarah has very good organizational abilities, in terms of setting up interviews and calling meetings. In these ways I think Sarah is a great person to work with, especially on this project because when I really did not feel like doing anything or my energy levels were low, she'd push me to work harder which is a skill that I think is great and which I hope will grow onto me even after this year. The downside of such a skill is that one tends to be bossy and authoritative which is something I felt during this process, sometimes meetings were called without consulting the rest of the group and times were not agreed upon, as a result I had to drop a lot of things which I was busy with because I did not want to risk seeming as if I was not contributing equally to the project. TV is undoubtedly a lot of work and I understand and fully appreciate it, but time must be made for personal routine so one's life can function properly. Also, another downside is the usage of the word "I", as though the rest of the group did not work on it as well, when explaining things to our Executive producer a lot of what was reported was on how "she" did this and "she" did that. Yes, I admit, there was a lot that she did on her own, yet a lot of these things were done without consulting the rest of the group, but most of the things that she did were done as a group. In this regard I felt slightly undermined and under appreciated. Basically, the point for me on all of this is that there is a thin line between being a great anchor for the group, being a hard worker and on the other side, being neurotic and authoritative. However, these comments and this view should not ignore the fact that Sarah is a great person to work with, I am actually happy that I am in her group, because I work harder then I feel I would if I were in any other group- I just want my input to be acknowledged just as much as anyone else. But to reiterate, the positive side far outweighs the negative side and I only express the negative side because I see the self-reflective piece as a platform in which to do that.

The tension mentioned above was never an obstacle for the production of our documentary. At one point at the very beginning of the shooting process, Sarah, very kindly, spoke to Jenny about her constant absence because of her commitment to church and her getting sick very often-this confrontation proved useful, because Jenny's presence in the production was better and more involved. Working with Jenny was also

good and I felt that it was much better working with her on this project than in the chase sequence project.

My experience of editing was not as scary as I thought it would be, it felt very liberating to be on my own in the edit suite, and I learned much more than I thought I would, but I now know for sure that I would never specialise in editing for my career-my interest lies more in producing, researching, directing, writing and filming. To be stuck in front of a computer all day is not a very exciting and learning experience. I was comfortable with my editing and appreciated Jenny's contribution and assistance during the last days of editing because she is very interested and good at editing-there were however times of uncertainty when I would arrive at the edit suite and find that some things had been changed without me having been consulted

I think there is very little that I would have changed, even with the concerns expressed above- the team worked well together and input from all sides contributed to the editing.