

STILL HERE
Self Reflective Essay

My initial idea for an individual documentary was a documentary on Rastafarian women. I then found out that the Rastafarian community here in Grahamstown is very small and I would have had to travel to Port Elizabeth in order to be able to achieve my goal. Due to transport constraints and other factors, it was impossible for me to do so. Therefore I had to change my idea, thus I decided to do a piece on the elderly.

I think that I did not use my time wisely in order to do this documentary well. I did however try to get as many elderly people as I could, but it was difficult to find the right subjects for my piece; because I was looking for subjects over the age of eighty, who were still healthy enough to be able to talk to me, I had to choose the best for the documentary. I do however think that if I had started doing this piece earlier in the term or year, I could have found more people and been able to produce a better piece.

In all honesty, I did not feel very strongly about the subject matter of the documentary, as I had felt about the Rastafarian one. The Rastafarian documentary was something I had always wanted to do and my heart was set on it. Therefore this documentary was done half-heartedly due to time and deadline. I was also discouraged by the difficulty of finding the proper subjects as a number of people kept cancelling interviews with me and I ended up with only 4 subjects willing to talk.

I had a difficult time travelling around to interview my subjects, as I had to walk everywhere with the equipment, but I did get help from a friend who helped me carry the equipment. It was difficult to go back and try to re-interview the subjects as they were very unwilling to be interviewed again. I found that they would only open up after a while of being interviewed. Maybe if I had spent more time with them before the interviews, they would have been more co-operative with me.

I feel that the subjects that I ended up using complimented each other because they are so different. The Whites are a middle-class couple who have lived a very normal, happy life; Miss Wood has never been married and lives alone, she is more of an academic person; Mr Zondani is very political. Therefore, the subjects answered the questions in terms of their personalities. I do regret not spending more time

conceptualising this piece because I would have made it easier for me to execute the final product effectively.