

Project log

August 15

- Started brainstorming what my documentary would be about essentially the context, topic, length, and scenery. I researched the top ten problems of Mexico. The top 3 were all about poor areas and education. There was the idea of making a report on Mexico but it isn't peaking my interest. I stumbled about the act of making a charity to help make a small scholarship to someone in Mexico to help pay their tuition.

(1 hour)

August 20

- Research about the poor areas of Mexico and their schools. Found how many would be in one area and how far they were apart from each other. I also researched how much each school's tuition was, if there were different grades from the school individually.

(2h 30m)

September 6

- I looked into Google Maps to see areas I would want to check out to get shots prepared when I get there. They were separated into sections by what type of clips they would be, for example scenes of people and traffic, trees and animals, or food and lifestyle. Looking through Google Maps I could see how far tourist areas would be and would make a good shot of people and schools that I would want to go and interview at. I had written down addresses and directions from general areas I would stay at.

September 24

- I figured out where I would stay and how long I would stay there. The general areas I wanted to visit while still not interfering with my other personal responsibilities were Mexico City, Jalisco Guadalajara, Sky Hidalgo, Veracruz Paraiso la Reforma, Oaxaca. In Mexico City I would stay for a day and a half and would travel to Hidalgo the next day. In Hidalgo I would stay for 3 days and take an airplane to Veracruz and stay at my grandparents house for the most part of my stay. From there I would be able to travel to Oaxaca and back without a problem since the Paraiso is located at the border of Veracruz connecting Oaxaca. Two days before I left back to America I would take an airplane to Jalisco Guadalajara. From there I would travel back to California.

(2 hours)

November 12

- Taking into account how much time I had to be there I wouldn't have time to call the school and ask for permission to interview or visit the schools so I took the time now to call in advance and ask to come see them teach or if I could ask them questions. 8 schools said no and 2 said I couldn't record but I could come. And the 4 in Veracruz let me record and interview.

(3 hours)

December 1

- I went to the store and bought a new suitcase to take to Mexico. I hit up Good Old Ross and DDS cuz we broke like that. Spent a total of 75 with 36 cents

(2 maybe 40 min)

December 11

- I looked for car rentals and the type of car that would benefit me since it was not on my car. I ended up looking at a tacoma truck 2014 I think. Around 57 American dollars it was a small local business in the outskirts of Mexico. I also looked for hotels I would stay at before I would get to my grandparents house. That ended up being around 45 per night for the first hotel and second would be 52 per night and the last one would be 67 per night since it was a more touristic area.

January 13

- I started on my process of renewing my passport since mine expired. I collected my legal documents and headed to the post offices. The post office couldn't help me and told me to make an appointment with the post office in Manteca.

January 23

- I went to my appointment to the post office and handled the process of documentation. They had said in two weeks I would get my new passport and the week after that I would get my original birth certificate back.

February 10

- I got my passport

February 22

- I received my birth certificate back

February 29

- I had looked through flight to Mexico City. I decided to go on the airline Volaris because it's the most popular airline for Mexican destinations. Here I saw that if I booked the flight closer to the date I wanted to leave it would be cheaper.

March 8

- I bought bluetooth mics so I could record people in my interview. These bluetooth mikes helped the quality of the video to improve it would sound a lot more clear to the viewer. I also bought a ring light to add more lighting to my shot making it more cinematic. In total the mics were 17.99 and the ring light was 29.99.

March 9

- I had booked my flight to Mexico through Volaris. The ticket cost 562.85 for business class. That would be a straight flight there but the flight back would be different. I took an economy flight to Veracruz from Mexico and that would be 134.42. My flight back would involve a flight from Veracruz International Airport to Jalisco Guadalajara and there I would have a 7 hour overlay to a straight shot to Sacramento International Airport that flight would be 455.79

March 17

- I left for the airport at 8:30 pm to get to the airport at 9:56. I had an hour to go through TSA and check in my luggage. At 10:59 my airplane departed for Mexico.

March 18

- At 4:20 am my airplane landed at Mexico airport. From here I went to three different schools surrounding the area that would involve a high school, middle school, and an elementary school. I would arrive at my hotel room at 11:45 pm

(the whole day)

March 19

- At 3:00 pm I made my way to Hidalgo Mexico. Where I would see a preschool. In this preschool I had an activity with the kids where they had to design and pick their animal costume because it was the day of kids in Mexico where they had a 4 hour festival.

March 21

- I took a flight to Veracruz at 2:00 am and landed at 3:45 am. I made my way to my grandparents house which was located 2 and half hours away from the airport. This village is called Paraiso la Reforma. This village is right on the border from Veracruz and Oaxaca.

March 22

- I took the day to go around the village and ask around for inputs of their kids' education. I also took the chance to get clips and shots from around the place. Having these few clips would help fill in the documentary and would help the viewer what the place looked like. This would also give more context to the story along the way.

March 24

- I took a trip to Oaxaca and looked at this very small university located 3 hours away from the border of Veracruz. Here I interviewed a professor and my aunt who was a student there 9 years ago.

March 25

- I took an airplane to Jalisco Guadalajara for my final day in Mexico. I took the opportunity of my 7 hour layover to go to a nearby middle school located 20 min away from the airport. I interviewed 3 kids that were walking back to change to go to work. I also went where they worked and recorded what these 12 and 11 year olds were doing. Making my way back I had my flight delayed 3 times. Each one was an hour late. They had changed my gate 3 times too. I didn't depart until 4 am in the morning and didn't get back to Sacramento until 9:45 am the next day

March 26

- I arrived at Sacramento International Airport at 9:45 am

March 28 - April 9

- I had edited and written the script for the documentary. I put together most of the shots and voiceovers I had previously recorded. I made a song playlist to be the background while the documentary was going on. There were problems with editing the text to be animated and come on screen like it was typing at the same time I would be talking to. I had to scratch that idea. When editing the documentary I had found myself switching from Premiere Pro to Adobe Rush. I would use Adobe After Effects to create better lighting in clips I took back in Mexico. I would then use a Microsoft Slip Champ to cut and fix voice waves. This mixer of softwares gave me a better result of quality. Although I couldn't add all the clips I took and all the people I had interviewed. I think I did pretty well for only 2 and a half weeks to edit and produce a 10 min documentary.

