This assignment was a major group project that we were required to work together and produce a short film analyzing a certain element of one of the literary satires we've read this year. Our group chose Great Expectations and based our film around Pip's character development. That being said, this was the most demanding project we've undertaken this year, but I believe the effort we put into it helped us produce a solid final product that not only entertains our intended audience (the AP class) but still sticks to the novel and addresses an important point in today's society.

We chose to create a satire of the 'thug life' and how Pip would fall into it should Great Expectations have taken place in the 21st century. For a while, we only knew how to create jokes or ridiculous scenes in similarity to certain events in the book. There wasn't enough satirical connection for us to be sure of what we were really satirizing, but I eventually pieced together a logical flow for us to develop our point across - that being the criminal life will eventually blow over and lead to trouble for anyone stuck in it. Nevertheless, Pip is still a hapless character forced into it, so the final scene is a redemptive reflection of his misdoings and a promise to do the right thing from then on. While criminals don't usually get so lucky as to be released without trial (a potshot we took at the justice system's inability to do things quickly) most of the time, we let Pip go only to resolve the plot closer to the novel to leave the viewer with a moralizing conclusion.

Writing the script was a lengthy process. We constantly questioned our ideas that we contributed since we sometimes had differing opinions or even didn't know how something followed the original novel. Initially we had a much grander scheme for some scenes - having me perform on the piano to emphasize 'gentlemanliness' for one. This came to naught since the

auditorium was constantly occupied by gym classes or we could not all work on the same date when it was available. We often had to explain to one another what something meant and why it was significant, but looking back on it, this was not tiresome at all, but rather an incentive to make sure everything we were going to film made sense and would follow our satire's purpose. I believe I exceeded in standard CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1 and all of its subdivisions within. The best way to prove I understood the text and our own parody was by explaining it to group members as we filmed when they needed a pointer or didn't quite get what this had to do with criminals or Pip's character. While this occurred behind the scenes, it still contributed to ensure that we produced a solid project in the end by understanding every concept of our satire and what it connected to in the original novel.

Having access to Chris's house on most days after school let us variate our setting and let us have more time to go through the filming process bit by bit without being restrained by the period bell or another group wanting an area for some time. As a result we have many decent shots that are well planned since we carefully thought of every aspect of the film and how it would progress. Yet I was astounded by the end at how much work we put in each day to film some scenes. It took us about two hours to film scene seven, but the cuts between me walking up to the house and Pip's growing fear, along with the scissors (a device for exaggerated effect) were thought up on the spot since they added atmosphere at times, and also made sure the film never got too serious for our own liking. A real knife and fake blood may have sounded good on paper, but it would detract from viewing since we were not trying to create action or realism, but create as much satire as possible from every important plotline from the novel. Of course Herbert is not a mean crime boss in the novel, but flipping his character around was an excellent idea of

ours, firstly to follow the trending theme of 'influence' in our video and to satirize himself by purposely making his character self-destructive to follow the idea that crime drains the person's morality. I think we succeeded in standard 2.CC.a. in " Interacting, collaborating, and publishing with peers...employing a variety of digital environments and media." There was more collaboration on this project than I've ever had before in a group, and we each contributed our strengths to producing the best film possible. This doesn't mean there were no difficulties - often we could not meet on the same day, one of us was sick, setting our own deadlines back some, and we trashed many silly ideas to keep the pace of the satire evident, despite our own guilty objection to doing so since it seemed so funny to us, but was too off-topic to keep in the film. We used our phones, iMovie to edit, and various documents to share script ideas and suggest certain things.

In creating this film I was exposed to many new elements of technology I hadn't looked much into before. I don't make my own videos with a phone, so even the simple task of using an iPhone 6 was difficult at the start. While me and Manny usually were delegated filming responsibilities when we were present, I had to learn a few rudimentary basics to even be competent with it. I learned a lot about which angle to shoot from, along with acting in itself. Chris handled most editing, and we only acted as a creative counsel at times, suggesting where something could be changed or why he added a specific thing (like the darn plane at the beginning) and how it related to satire. I personally don't think I succeeded in acting (it is simply not my calling) but I was more interested in presenting Herbert's character as it was written - another lesson I learned well here. I wrote the second half of the script almost entirely alone while they worked on jokes and humor for the first part, and the result was very dry and not at all

film-worthy. Monologues that I thought could be presented in ten seconds ran for fifteen. Or actions were basic and hardly interesting to watch, despite having the words down right. Even if something sounds good on paper doesn't mean it will flow so well on camera. Script-writing is very difficult to pull off effectively since there is a medium between substance and simplicity that we have to approach to hold the best effect on the viewer. It's a valuable tool I want to keep in mind when I write more in the future. Much of what I've learned in this project will go to great use in future work with colleagues in higher education. Not one person should command the group persay, but rather contribute to the best degree with his or her strengths, and learn to mitigate whatever weaknesses they hold to improve as a student and a learner in the long run.