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Screenplay Reflection

Subjective:

I found the screenplay writing process to be extremely exciting. As I worked with different potential plots, jokes, and developments I found myself become increasingly enthralled with the production and overall work itself. I felt that it was relatively easy to embrace different ethnic and time-period perspectives when taking on the narrative voice of Eddie Huang. I began to grow more connected to him and his hilarious plights as a confused, developing boy in a new place, especially since I approach the 1990s with a special fondness as my childhood. I was extremely aware and weary of coming off offensive however, which would be the opposite of my goal with this project. I have learned to appreciate the stories of “the other” through our class discussion and became more sensitive to minority figures and the unique challenges that come with that label in America. I wanted this project to show my respect to the incredible Asian-American artists we have studied in class so far through Eddie’s epiphany that he is not strictly defined as “Asian-American,” but he should still take immense pride in who he is and his family’s historical story. My expressive goals were to remain consistent with the scope of the show while analyzing otherness, cultural assimilation/uniqueness, stereotyping, American Dream, and the coming of age perspective. The otherness is innate in the story as the Huang family is constantly juxtaposed against the white majority and their expectations. In terms of cultural assimilation and uniqueness, I began with Eddie operating as very culturally assimilating. Throughout both my episode and actual episodes this season, Eddie has rejected traces of Asian-American culture in his complete buy-in to the American ideals of rap music, food, and popular athletes. I wanted to attack this aspect of Eddie, and see where I could shed light on the positive aspects of his cultural uniqueness. I wanted to present the task of studying Jackie Chan as initially ironic and somewhat stereotypical, but then develop it until it became a source of pride and learning experience for Eddie. I also mentioned the American Dream explicitly both from Eddie’s father as well as Eddie’s reflective narrative voice. I felt that because this show contends on a family’s ambitious goal of achieving their perception of the American Dream, shrinking it down and making it palatable for Eddie could be very beneficial to his character development. Further, pinpointing the coming-of-age aspect of the show made Eddie impressionable and dynamic in his accelerated maturation over one single episode. In essence, I wanted this episode to flip the stereotypical predispositions of the majority characters on its head and have the Huang family experience pride and fulfillment from different aspects of their culture naturally ascribed to them by their judgmental counterparts.

Objective:

Objectively speaking, I think I produced a funny, interesting, and creative screenplay that maintained formatting integrity to screenplays in circulation today. I paid special attention to the format because screenplays interest me. Therefore, producing a realistic and professional piece of art was essential. I also felt I did a good job connecting things and building on the pieces set in motion from the begging. I believe the story flows well and the ending segment is a solid representation of the initial developments coming together in victorious fashion for the Huang

family. From bringing the family back to the initial restaurant fiasco or Eddie's reflective appreciation for Jackie Chan and his father's cultural pride, the Huang family left the episode as a united, proud group of people rather than the disjointed, frustrated crew presented at the beginning. The show naturally receives both praise and criticism. I would be naïve to think mine could escape that dichotomy of opinion. However, I do sincerely hope that my work is considered tasteful even if someone inherently disagrees with the premise of the show.