

Today, I will be discussing my film opening titled "Copycat," which I worked on with three other group members Sara, Isabella, and Paola. My film follows the adventure of a girl named Margo who decides to run away from home with her boyfriend Liam due to the pressures from her parents of being someone she is not. Paola is starring as Margo, and a classmate of ours named Tomas was kind enough to be featured as Liam.

Since our film is a romantic drama, we combined characteristics of romance and drama by focusing on the interaction between the two main characters and creating "the depiction of real life through symbols" ("What Are The Characteristics of Modern Drama?"). We achieved this by utilizing conventions of romance by implementing several two-person shots of Liam and Margo together. To portray drama aspect, my group members and I decided to use close-up shots of Margo and Liam to really grasp the seriousness of Margo's decision to run away. She is sick of her parents telling her that she is not "perfect" enough because of her intelligence and wants to be something other than a student. Furthermore, Margo's transition to her true identity is portrayed through the symbol of her wardrobe, which will be discussed in the next.

Because we want to target the social group of teenagers to young adults of around ages 13-25, my product represents the issue of not finding one's place in society. According to Simply Psychology, this conflict is called the identity versus role confusion, which is when "adolescents search for a sense of self and personal identity through an intense exploration of personal values, beliefs, and goals." This is found in Erik Erikson's stages of psychosocial development. ("Erik Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development"). In addition to this, we incorporate stereotypical images through Margo's wardrobe, specifically through her girly outfit in the beginning of the film. I decided to show this through color psychology; the color pink symbolizes femininity and the color white symbolizes purity. At first, the audience may believe that she is an innocent sweet girl, but as her wardrobe changes, the viewers realize that she is actually edgy. Moreover, Margo does not really break any stereotypes because she's edgy and wants to runaway. She knows that she's the type of girl to live that adventurous lifestyle. Margo is aware that she's an outcast, and therefore is a "copycat," which is why we employed this name for our film title.

My product engages with the audience because the viewers can follow the life of Margo from start to finish. They can see Margo starting off the day wearing white and pink, but as she arrives to school, her outfit suddenly changes to all black, which

represents her rebellious nature. This change in wardrobe depicts that in order to please her parents, Margo hid behind this innocent facade to conceal who she truly was: dangerous and edgy. Also, the audience members can relate to Margo since they may feel like they do not belong in society as well. This helps our film opening to be more relatable to our audience and, therefore, more enjoyable.

With regards to the distribution of our film as a real media text, we wanted to hop on the bandwagon of teenage romantic dramas because of the recent popularity of teenage romance movies such as [The Kissing Booth](#). My group members and I hope to receive connections from individuals working at Netflix in order to get our film exposed on this platform. Because Netflix continues to spend large sums of money on “original and licensed content,” their quality has improved, making shows and movies more popular to the public eye. Additionally, Netflix has an audience “with members spanning 190 countries, including the 56.7 million subscribers in the U.S.” (“Netflix Content Budget Is Updated to \$13B for 2018”). With this large audience, we could have the resources to give our film as many views as possible in order to increase its popularity.

My production skills developed tremendously throughout this project. I had to learn to be patient when working with camera and especially when editing. I used the Nikon camera to film all our scenes, but a major issue that I ran into with the camera was its battery life. The battery drained very quickly, even when I was not using the camera. Therefore, some filming days were cut short because the battery died. However, I overcame this issue by always charging the battery the night before the day of filming. In addition, I learned time management, making sure I have enough time to film all the scenes perfectly, to edit, and to finally submit the project. This proved to be difficult since I worked with a large group of people; I had to make sure everyone was present and wore the correct outfits. As I continued through my adventure of filming, I practiced using the correct type of shot for each scene in order to create a deeper meaning. Every scene was shot in a certain way for a reason, and I had to make sure that the message was clearly stated.

I integrated technology into this project by learning how to use Adobe Premiere Pro, which was easy once I got it downloaded. One of my group members Isabella had to teach me how to use the program, but after a couple hours, it was easy to navigate and use. However, editing was still a challenge; it was very difficult to select the right music to set the mood of the scene and to cut out parts where our actors are laughing in serious scenes. The scene would have to be cut perfectly in order for it to flow smoothly from one scene to the next. Although the software was cooperating, the hardware was difficult to work with. My MacBook Pro was too old to download Adobe Premiere Pro; therefore, we had to retrieve Isabella’s computer, praying it would download there. Luckily, her computer was able to download the program. In addition to this, we had some issues with Internet malfunctions, but after a few different locations such as

Starbucks or the library, we went to Isabella's house and were able to get connection there.

Overall, this was a great learning experience for me. I now truly understand the hardships and dedication it takes to work in the film industry. Creating a two-minute film was extremely stressful, so I cannot image making a two-hour long movie. However, I am grateful for this opportunity. Thank you for following me on my journey of failures and triumphs as I tackled the film opening.

Works Cited

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