Self-Reflection Report

Over the course of this project we were to plan out and record a cover; or an original song, through ourselves or bring in an external client to be recorded. Our group decided to record between ourselves, as the short timescale meant that getting a band in straight away to record would’ve been somewhat of a problem. Despite personally not being able to play instrumentation, we originally had decided for everyone to play an instrument live during our studio session (which we had booked a total of 8 hours for it).

To achieve this cover, which was implemented with a specification of having Ableton used as a Rewire track, we decided to ‘chunk’ the project up. We planned what we were doing, wrote down brief plans and kit lists (as it may be likely to change on the day, which in our case did happen in terms of instrumentation and the kit list needed). The musical practice then followed for the next week or so as we decided to solely practice stuff on the lead-up to our studio booking in the third week, as it would be easier for us to know the song and how each component will be played, and when to come in, whether there was a twist on the original song added – thus making it easier and quicker when we went to record, as everyone knew the song and how we had planned for it to record and play out. By doing this, I feel personally, we got better at time management in terms of project scales.

In the official recording of the song, components were changed in the way they sounded, some parts were taken out, and others put in. The planning we had done, changed when it came to the studio day, but I feel we planned well enough to be able to adapt these changes. Additionally, the changes made didn’t cause any disagreements through the group; everyone was supportive for ideas and helpful when it came to carrying them out.

Despite the few problems we had through hardware, – which was beyond our control and was a matter of talking to the college technician to help us get the system back up and running – we carried out the task almost in the time limit. The only timing setback was re-recording vocals in the last week (week of the deadline) and therefore having limited time to edit and mix; which carried onto the day after.

If we were to do this differently, I feel despite the planning we did, it didn’t go according to the brief as we didn’t hit the deadline. Doing this again, I would put a week less into practice/planning and get into the studio and record as soon as possible and as soon as everyone is ready to – given the times on the studio booking page – and have more time for mixing and finishing.