

**From Banging to Baking:
A Documentary on Malachi Chavez and Restorative
Partners**

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Senior Project - Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies

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Introduction

During my last two quarters at Cal Poly, I have been exploring the cinematic process. More so, I have been exploring the storytelling process. With my senior project, I set out to do a short documentary video. My goals were simple: learn about the cinematic process; complete a short documentary from pre-production to post-production; work with a client to deliver a video that was mutually beneficial to them and me. The latter of my goals was the most important. While learning about the process of production was important, if the quality of the film met both my expectations and the client's expectations, the rest would take care of itself.

I set my sights high for my first solo production. I wanted a video that I would be proud of, that I could use as a stepping stone to showcase for my next video or project, and that was meaningful and helped more than just myself. I got some advice from a fellow LAES student that became a driving factor for this project and will remain so for future projects: "You are never doing a video for just yourself." Every video made has an intended target audience, whether it be classmates, an organization, or a film festival, the video is made for the audience.

Step one was to find an organization to work with. For me to be proud of my video, I had to believe in what the subject and content of the video was about. Again, the video was not just for me, the subject or client would also be the driving factor of the video. After reaching out to multiple groups and organizations, I was able to connect with a client looking for what I had to offer and I was excited about their work as well, Restorative Partners.

Restorative Partners is a non-profit organization located here in San Luis Obispo. Their mission statement, "helping and healing all those impacted by crime." They work in the San Luis Obispo County Jail, the California Men's Colony, the San Luis Obispo Juvenile Hall, and around the San Luis Obispo community helping prisoners transition back into society, and helping them stay there by leading productive lives. They are an organization that is just starting out, but already making a big impact on the community. Within minutes of meeting with them, they already had a vision and a direction for the project, a short documentary video to be shown at their annual fundraising banquet. They were looking for an inspirational film, a short documentary about one of the first success stories to go through their program, Malachi Chavez. They wanted me to tell

his story: where he came from, to where he is now, and the change he went through to get there. From there, the cinematic process began to tell the story of his life.



Deliverables

I set out to make a video; I was looking to learn about that cinematic process. A key component to the cinematic process is how your audience responds. The story telling process is about engaging the audience and entertaining them. The audience determines if the film is successful or not. Again, you are not making a video for yourself.

I had my original goals and expectations for the project and what I was going to deliver. However, working with Restorative Partners, the details of the project became more defined and specific. They needed a video for their fundraising banquet; the video had to engage the right emotions, especially dealing with such sensitive subjects, as life behind bars and money.

They wanted me to tell Restorative Partners story through Malachi's eyes. Show how he found his change with the help of their program. This was their annual fundraising event. As a non-profit organization, this is their main source of funding. They

wanted to honor Malachi and all he has achieved by telling his story, but also highlighting that there are other Malachi's out there who need a helping hand to get back on the right path. Restorative Partners wanted this film to be shown at their dinner event; it had to be short and concise -- and not bore the audience as they waited for their food (8 to 10 minutes long), but packed with enough emotion to engage them and get the message across. The video had to inspire the audience, to have them leave there feeling uplifted, and wanting to help and do more.

The video vastly grew from being *just my video*. It was a teaching tool for me, something I could be proud to show future employers. But it was also an inspirational film, a film to honor Malachi and his achievements, a video to help Restorative Partners fundraise so they could continue help people like Malachi, and a video for the community.

We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends!
Second Annual Benefit for Restorative Partners!
"Helping and Healing All Those Impacted by Crime."

Groove to the sounds of the 60's
with Unfinished Business!

Saturday May 31, 2014
Elks Club
222 Elks Lane, San Luis Obispo
Doors open at 5:00 PM
Price: \$35

Dinner, Dance,
Silent Auction, and Raffle!

To view more event details and purchase your tickets please go to:
www.restorativepartners.org/events/5/maybenefit14

Literature and Technology Review / Similar Projects

This project was a true senior project. I drew resources and knowledge from various classes I had taken over my college tenure and did a major portion of the work in my Humanities 341 Cinematic Process class. It was a culmination of my college career. As a senior project, I ran and designed the project independently. The design of

the project was created through my Humanities classes, the capstone classes to my Media Arts and Technology minor. The design was simple, tell a story that engages the audience and keeps them entertained, use Syd Field's three act structure to keep it organized, so as not to lose the focus of the story. This is a project all students do within the core classes of the Media Arts and Technology minor. However, I took it one step further and completed it ahead of time and premiered the video to an audience of 250 people.

The lack of a film program at Cal Poly makes projects similar to this relatively slim. However, within LAES and the Media Arts and Technology minor, these projects are abundant. The design process of production is very standardized, and the movement from pre-production to post-production is relatively similar throughout. This allowed me to gain hands-on experience in the process, to work within all aspects of the process, and to prepare me for doing similar projects after college. Being tied to both programs, I got to see and experience the work my peers were doing as well. I was able to get help from them, bounce ideas off them, and lend a hand to their projects on occasion as well. It showed me the similarities and differences of each project.

For my project, I chose to follow Syd Field's three act structure as described in his book *Screenplay the Foundation of Screenwriting*. In his book, Syd Field talks about the art of screenwriting by breaking down successful film into the three act structure. He begins by talking about F. Scott Fitzgerald, a great American writer and author of *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald was a tremendous author, but his attempts at screenplays in Hollywood were not as successful. Syd Field claims, Fitzgerald's downfall was in the structure of his novels vs. his screenplays. In Syd Field's three act structure, he breaks a movie or screenplay down into its most basic form, the beginning, middle, and end. This creates act one, act two, and act three.

Act I is the thesis. It's where the the subject and context are introduced. It's also where the problem and dramatic question are introduced as well. This is the foundation you build your story from. You must give the audience enough information so they can follow what is happening, but not so much that they lose interest. Storytelling is all about keeping the audience engaged. You have to keep them wondering what happens next, revealing too much information will lose their attention. An exciting incident will bring about the dramatic question. The dramatic question is the first plot point. This will

transition the story into Act II. For this project, this is where the audience is introduced to Malachi and begins to hear of his past. The audience gets a glimpse of what it was like for him growing up and the struggles he went through. It is also where they are introduced to his life in prison and how he was caught in the cycle of the prison system, spending more time in prison than out. The question revealed is *how do you break this cycle?* A major struggle I had writing this story was to not keep the story linear. This is a real man's life. The events happened and they happened in an order. As a documentary, it is common for most people to want to tell the events as they happened, proceeded by what happens next. However, you run the risk of revealing too much information and losing the audience's attention. In Act I of my story, I really described what Malachi's life was like growing up, how he grew up in the gang life because he was born into it, how drugs and alcohol had a major impact on his life. This included breaking these cycles and getting sober, even with the passing of his father. For example, I opened the film with the passing of his father, why it was significant, and what it really meant. This allowed me to focus on the message being told, and the struggles he went through, rather than the order the events took place. The events are all true, but the order in which they are revealed is not chronological.

Act II is the antithesis. It is where the story develops. The audience is introduced to obstacles, historical backdrop, relationships and alliances, and any social, political, or economic implications. They are introduced to the antagonist, and the conflict and struggle increases. The audience begins to dive deeper into what the prison system is like and how so many people get caught in the cycle. Malachi reveals more of his story and talks about his life in prison, and the question of how you break the cycle begins to grow stronger. The audience is then introduced to Restorative Partners, the program in which Malachi participated while incarcerated his last time. Restorative Partners had him work in the kitchen, where Malachi finds his passion for baking. This becomes the midpoint. The problem isn't solved, but the audience begins to formulate an idea of how it can be solved. They know he made a change in his life and broke the cycle, but they do not know how he did it or how Restorative Partners really impacted him. As the relationship between the two characters is revealed further, it builds to plot point number two. The audience wants to see if the program works as they transition into Act III.

Act III is the synthesis. It is where the big question is answered and the conflicts, problems, and values are all resolved. This is where we see how Restorative Partners helped change Malachi's life, how he turned his life around, and the results from the program. We see how Restorative Partners helped Malachi to develop a plan when he was released from jail to pursue his cooking dreams; we see how he is now a baker at the local Madonna Inn. The questions are answered, and the audience is left with an upbeat happy ending.

The three act structure is a guideline, a blueprint. It helps you tell the story, know why each part is significant, and keep your story focused. However, when you transition to production and post production, it's subject to change. I followed the three act structure to tell the story, but I drew from other places for the style of the film. Syd Field used real movie examples to break down and explain the three act structure. Similarly, I drew my inspiration from ESPN shorts and feature presentations, in their E:60 and 30 for 30 film. I examined the way they told their stories, broke them down into the three act structure, and tried to mimic their styles. The two in particular that influenced me and my film were, *E:60 - Marshawn Lynch: Beast Mode* and *Sport Center Feature: Redefining Strength*. These are short films, close to the 8-10 minute requirement I was given, which allowed me to use them as a guideline and an example, to break down someone else's film and work, and draw from or do differently. Watching these films alongside my film, you can see the similarities and the places that influenced me.

Technology Overview

To film any kind of video, the first thing you need is a camera. I used several for this project. The three types of cameras I used were Canon XHA1 camcorder, Canon 70D DSLR camera, and a JVC camcorder. With the cameras, I used two types of microphones, a shotgun microphone and a boom pole microphone. The boom pole microphone allowed more range, to get up closer to the subject speaking without getting in the shot (most of the time). I shot both out in the field at the different locations, as well as in sit-down interviews.

Shooting in the field, there are a lot more uncontrollable variables which make filming more difficult and can bring down the quality of the film. I chose to use the indoor sit-down interview as the centerpiece footage for my film. It allowed me to have more

control over the setting and produce better quality footage. In the field, I used one camera at a time. For the interview, I used two, the JVC and the Canon 70D, to get different angles which helped out in the editing process. Two key things that are hard to control when shooting out in the field, are sound and light. I did all of my shooting early in the day to try and capture the opportune time, but for the interview I had much more control over these factors. I used a four point lighting system for the interview. Doing this, I was able to direct, soften, or brighten the light as needed. I was also able to suspend the boom pole from a C stand. This allowed me to drop the microphone in close to the subject to get maximum clarity of what he was saying, but also just out of the picture so the audience does not see the microphone in the shot.

In the post-production process, I used Adobe Premiere Pro to edit them film. I had very specific reasoning for using this program as well. As I was getting into post-production, I spoke to an editor from KSBY News. We talked about the editing process and what they use at the station. There has been some controversy over Final Cut Pro's new software release, Final Cut Pro 10 or Final Cut Pro X. When they updated their software, they made working with older versions of their own software difficult, as well as removing a great number of editing features. This has made a lot of professional editors, like KSBY, move to using different editing programs. I decided to use Adobe Premiere Pro, the same program now being used at KSBY. The program is simple, easy to learn, and works well with other Adobe products, with which I have a lot of experience. In doing this, I was also able to use Adobe After Effects to create titles, credits, etc. and implement them almost seamlessly.

Design

As mentioned above, I followed Syd Field's three act structure as a guideline for my project. I took the project from pre-production to post-production, including premiering the film at Restorative Partners annual fundraising banquet. Using Syd Field's model, I created a pre-production package to guide the project into production. These types of packages would generally be used to pitch the project, show you have an idea and have it planned out, and use the package to get funding, as well as use it as a blueprint. The package includes a story pitch, a log line, a character bio, a beat sheet, a screenplay segments, and a story treatment. The package led me into the

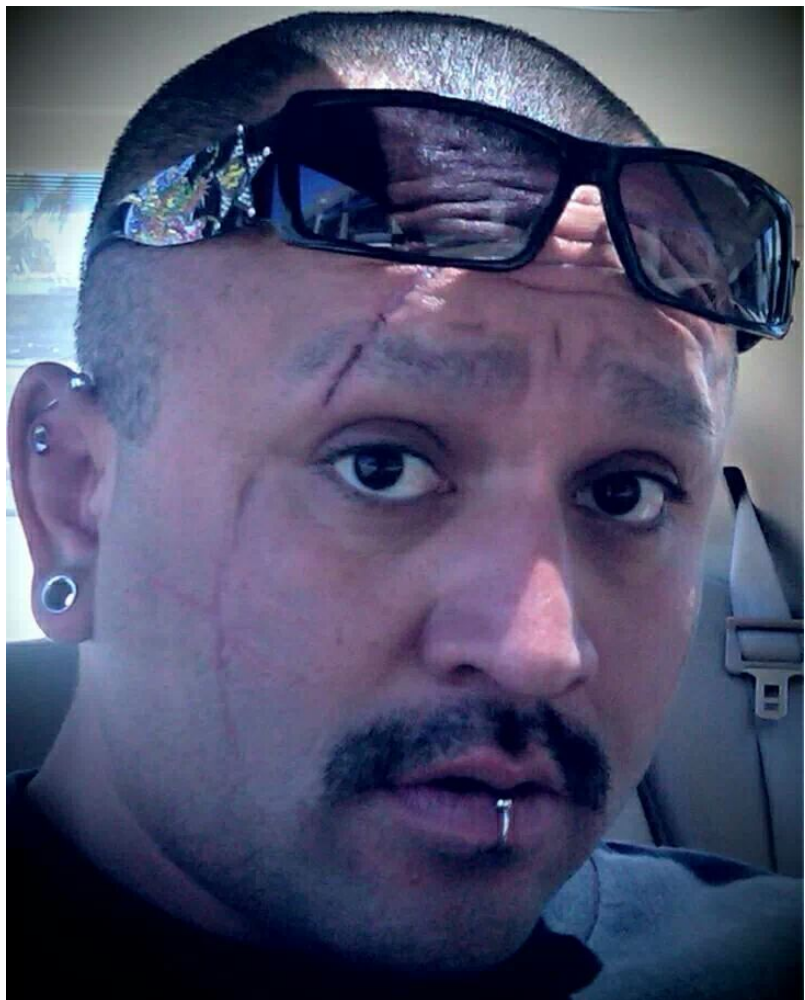
production process, comparing it to the final product, you can see a fair amount of change. However, I used the package throughout the process to help keep myself and the story organized and focused.

Log Line:

The Malachi Chavez Story: From Banging to Baking is a documentary film about Malachi Chavez, a 35-year-old man who spent 22 of those years in and out of prison; who, after going through the Restorative Partners program, found his love for cooking, became reformed, reentered society, and recently became employed by Madonna Inn as a baker. Malachi wants to share his passion and spread joy through his cooking. He has made great strides from where he once was, but it takes great strength on a daily basis to battle the struggles of his old life.

Character Bio:

We drive past detainment facilities regularly and think nothing of it. We see the residents in the yard, getting the only brief moments of their day outside. Immediately our mind tells us they are criminals without knowing what they did to get there. Each inmate is a human being, they have their own stories and experiences from their past that put them where they are. How often do people take the time to hear these stories and ask what sets them apart from people



on the other side of the fence. More times than not, the root of these differences began in childhood. These “criminals” didn’t just wake up one morning and decide to do wrong and break the law. It happened over time. They went down a path, the wrong path, and as they followed it over time, it led them where we see them, for that brief moment, behind the fences and bars. For some it was a long path, for others short. Once they’ve gone down that path though, how do they make their way back? Is it even possible?

At 35 years old, Malachi Chavez has spent 22 of those years caught in the prison cycle. He had a rough upbringing. He was born and raised in the Nipomo and Arroyo Grande areas of California’s Central Coast. He didn’t have much guidance growing up. He had been in and out of jail since he was a youth; the decisions he made as a troubled young teen sent him down that wrong path and changed his future. At the age of 13, he was arrested for the first time and sent to Juvenile Hall. As the years went on, he continued down that same path, being arrested 33 times, including three prison terms, over the course of 22 years.

A couple years ago, he was placed into the Restorative Partners program, a very new program started by a woman named Sister Theresa, to help him transition back into society. Restorative Partners doesn’t just work to put prisoners back into society; it helps to put them in a position where the reformed can thrive and stay as a fully functioning members of society. The organization works to not give them their old lives back, but the ability to start new lives that they can proudly call their own.

As Malachi went through the program, he got the chance to help out in the kitchen. “It all started with a chocolate chip cookie.” He was given a simple chocolate chip cookie recipe, he tried it -- it was good, but missing something. He made his own recipe, one with “that Malachi flair,” as Sister Theresa calls it. Shortly after making his new chocolate chip cookie recipe, the guards were all requesting more orders of these phenomenal cookies, and Malachi discovered his passion for cooking. From then on, he decided he wanted to spread that joy he experienced through his cooking with others.

Through the rest of his time in Restorative Partners, Malachi took cooking classes. He was released from prison early and placed on an anklet. This is a rare exception only given to inmates who show major progress and make great strides in the program. Upon his release, Malachi applied for a cooking position at Madonna Inn here in San Luis Obispo, as an entry level chef. He has been working there for a number of

months now, loving every minute of what he does, and was recently moved into the bakery. He has been working to rebuild his relationships with his family and continues to work, not regaining his old life, but building his new one. However, none of this would have been possible without the help of Sister Theresa and the people at Restorative Partners.

This film is a short eight to ten minute film to promote and show what Restorative Partners is all about by telling the story of one of the first people to go through their program.

Beat Sheet:

1. Opening Image (p. 1) Introducing Your Character:
 - a. Introduce Malachi Chavez, a 35 year old man who has spent about 22 years of his life in prison. Interview him and hear his story of how he ended up in prison and what life was like for him growing up.
2. Theme Stated (p. 2):
 - b. The wrong path that led to Malachi, and others, becoming incarcerated.
3. Set-Up (p. 1-3):
 - c. Hear Malachi's story. What was life like growing up. The first time he was arrested. The influence of gangs in his community when he was younger, and now. He has a daughter, but didn't meet her until she was 15 years old, what is that relationship like. What life in prison was like. What the prison system is like. The support, or lack of support he had throughout when he was younger, throughout his life, and through his incarceration.
4. Catalyst – Inciting Incident (p. 4):
 - d. Support - the support for him through his incarceration vs the support he received from Restorative Partners and how that helped to change his life.
5. Debate (p. 4-6):
 - e. How do you help reform prisoners? How do you support them through the process and how do you help them once they are released from prison?
 - f. How do you prepare the prisoners to reenter society and how do you break the cycle and prevent them from returning to prison?
6. Break into Act Two (p. 6)

- f. Introduce Restorative Partners
- 7. B Story (p. 6):
 - g. “It all started with a chocolate chip cookie.” As Malachi was going through Restorative Partners he found his passion for cooking.
- 8. Fun and Games (p. 6-10):
 - h. Hear Malachi’s story of how he fell in love with cooking, how Restorative Partners helped him discover it and helped him pursue his dreams of becoming a chef.
- 9. Midpoint – Mid-Act Climax (p. 10):
 - i. Show, through interviews, how Restorative Partners works, how it worked for Malachi and talk about what it was and what it is that really works, the difference for him.
- 10. Bad Guys Close In (p. 10-12):
 - j. For the program to work, when the prisoners are released, they cannot be sucked back into their old life and lifestyle. When Malachi was released he applied for a chef position at Madonna Inn. Around the same time his father passed away and he had to return to his home town for the funeral.
- 11. All Is Lost (p. 12):
 - k. Would the loss of his father and returning to his home town suck him back into his old life and old habits?
- 12. Dark Night of the Soul (p. 12-14):
 - l. Can Malachi break the cycle of going in and out of prison, and be proof Restorative Partners works?
- 13. Break into Act Three (p. 14):
 - m. The success of Restorative Partners and the impact it had on Malachi. The success Malachi had and continues to have. He got the job as a chef at Madonna Inn.
- 14. Finale (p. 14-16):
 - n. How Restorative Partners works and helps keep their members from going back to prison. The support Restorative Partners gives and continues to give to Malachi. The potential Malachi has now because of Restorative Partners. How others can have the same success.

15. Final Image (p. 16):
 - o. Restorative Partners.

Screenplay Segments:

Act I:

Introduce the main character, Malachi Chavez. 34 years old, been in and out of jail for over 21 years. Introduce him, what was it like growing up, what was life like in prison, the support through all of it? He has a 17 year old daughter who he didn't meet until she was 15 because he was incarcerated. Hear his story of what led to him spending the majority of his life in prison, and why and how he got caught in the cycle of going in and out of prison? Take the audience back to prison so they can understand where Malachi and the story are coming from.

Plot Point I: Introduce Restorative Partners

Act II:

Introduce Restorative Partners. Compare what they do with traditional programs and show the difference they make and how they affected Malachi's life. Show this through telling Malachi's story and the steps and processes he went through in the Restorative Partners' program. Introduce Sister Theresa and her story, and what she experienced working with Malachi. Show the audience what Malachi did in his process to recovery and starting a new life.

Plot Point II: His new life

Act III:

Malachi's father passed away. Talk about the difficulty with that and the emotions he went through. Talk about how he got through it. Close with Malachi's new life. Cook at Madonna Inn, working on his family life, the support he got, and continues to get from Restorative Partners, his faith. Show how Restorative Partners made it all happen.

Story Treatment:

The film opens with a close up, individual interview of Malachi Chavez talking about his past. A 34 year old man, he's spent the majority of his life behind bars. He grew up with a rough upbringing. He didn't have the support he needed growing up and

it caused him to act out. As he got older, his actions got bigger. As his actions grew, his punishments grew too, eventually sending him to prison. Once in prison, he found himself caught in the prison cycle, in and out of prison, never really free.

As Malachi opens up about his past and what his life was like growing up, he reveals the events in his life that led him down the path to prison. He grew up in the Nipomo and Arroyo Grande areas of the California Central Coast. He got mixed up in a lot of things he shouldn't have and before he knew it he found himself behind bars. Once behind bars, it became increasingly tougher to escape from the prison cycle. Malachi takes us back to the San Luis Obispo Men's Colony where he was incarcerated. Like most prisoners, he got caught in the in-and-out cycle of prison, and before he knew it he had spent the greater part of his life behind bars. The poor decisions he made cost him a lot. His relationships with his family took a major toll. He has a 17 year old daughter who he didn't meet until she was 15 years old. His dreams, his future, the way people saw him, all were altered by decisions he made and the lifestyle he chose.

While at the prison, he tells us what life was like for him in prison, how he got caught in the cycle, and dives deeper into his story of just how everything began to pile up and whether he was free or not, he seemed to have the same amount of decisions and freedom. Malachi grew up lacking the support he needed to keep him out of trouble. Once in the prison system, that lack of support grew greater, making it increasingly difficult for him to break free from the cycle.

Less than three years ago, a program started in San Luis Obispo called Restorative Partners. The program was started by a woman named Sister Theresa. The program works to not only help prisoners get back on their feet and back into society, but to support them along the way, during and after the program, and to help them create new lives for themselves. As the program took off, Malachi would get the chance to go through the program with Sister Theresa. Sister Theresa tells us her story of working with Malachi, his process in Restorative Partners, and the strides she has seen him make.

As a member of the Restorative Partners program, Malachi found his passion for cooking. "It all started with a chocolate chip cookie." He retells the story as if it were yesterday, of how, by simply whipping together a batch of cookies for the guards, he

learned something new. Not only did he learn how to mix ingredients together to make elegantly delightful treats, he learned he had an immense passion for cooking. From there, everything took off.

Restorative Partners helped him take cooking classes so he could pursue his dream of becoming a chef. Once he was released from jail, they helped him apply for a cooking position at Madonna Inn as well. Living in a sober living home, with a new dream and a new goal, things were looking up for Malachi. That was until his father passed away.

As he shows us the sober living home he once lived in, he also tells us what it was like for him once his father passed away. He was faced with returning to where he grew up. He was faced with confronting his past and the troubled life he used to live. However, this time was different. This time Malachi saw the light as he returned home. He had a life waiting for him back in San Luis Obispo, he had the support of Restorative Partners helping him through the process, and he wasn't the same guy who was trapped in a cycle with no way out.

After his father's passing, Malachi returned to San Luis Obispo. He currently works as a chef at the Madonna Inn. It's his dream job and he loves every minute of it. Malachi also speaks at Cal Poly on Wednesday nights. He speaks to Dr. Caldwell's psychology class and tells his story. He tries to make a difference in other people's lives, by helping people avoid the mistakes he made or by helping them gain the knowledge and experience to help others in need.

The film concludes with Malachi closing his story. He has made great strides in turning his life around. His journey was long and difficult, but he has worked hard in making sure it's now moving in the right direction. To do this, Malachi received a lot of love and support, especially from Restorative Partners. He ends by showing his love and gratitude for Sister Theresa and the people at Restorative Partners, and hopes the viewers of this video are inspired to help and support others in need, as Restorative Partners did for him.

The Process

This package was the first step in the production package. Following the pre-production package and the story pitch is the production process. In a real scenario, to

move to the next phase would require funding. Once the transition begins, locations for the shoot must be arranged. For location scouting, I had a lot of help from Sister Theresa to help get me into locations it would be hard to normally shoot in. I filmed at the Madonna Inn, the San Luis Obispo Mission, the Men's Honor Farm at the San Luis Obispo County Jail, and at Cal Poly as well. Each location was done on its own day and required several hours for set up, filming, and breakdown. Because of scheduling and working around volunteer hours, the process itself took a couple weeks to complete.

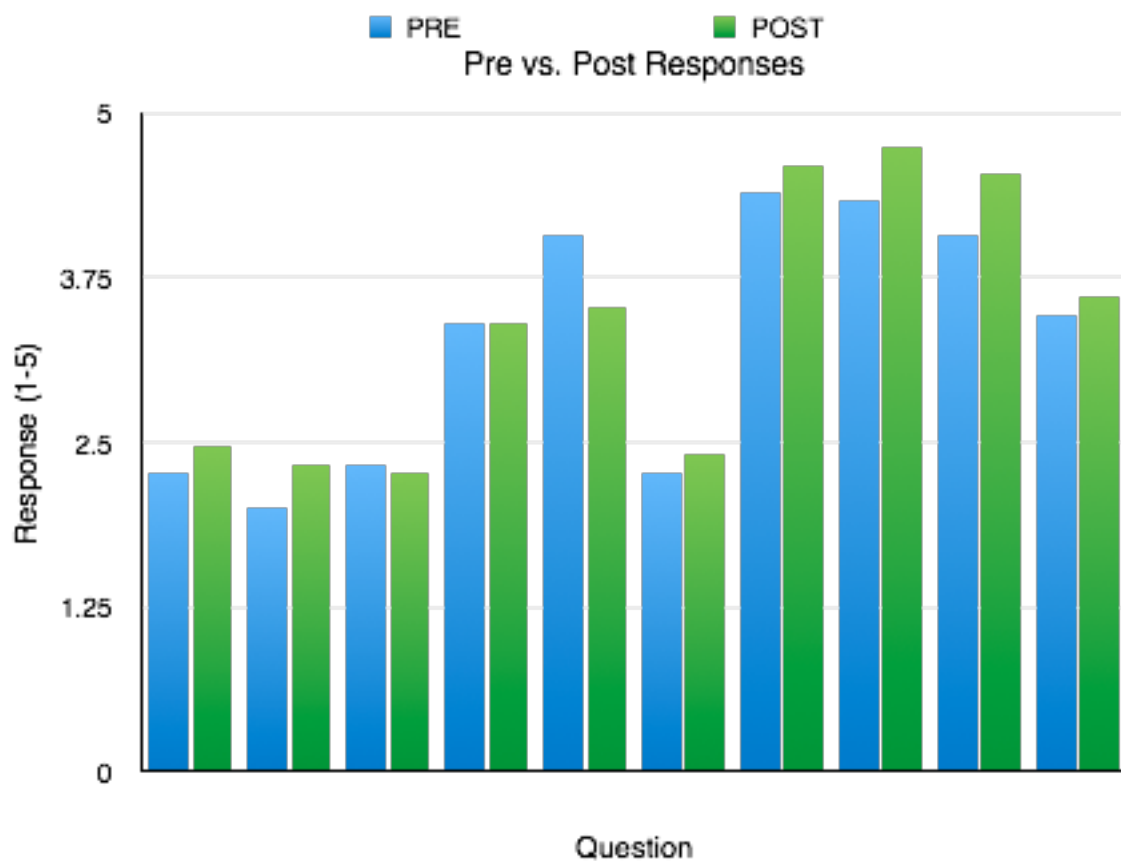
Once the filming was complete, I moved on to post-production. This process was the most time intensive process. The task consisted of sorting through over four hours of footage and cutting it down to under ten minutes. In most cases, the footage to film ratio (amount of footage kept for the film) would be double this. The post-production process includes everything from uploading and sorting footage, cutting, editing visuals, smoothening transitions, enhancing audio, adding a soundtrack, outputting it in a playable format and more (these are just the features I did in my project for post-production; there are many more that could be done).

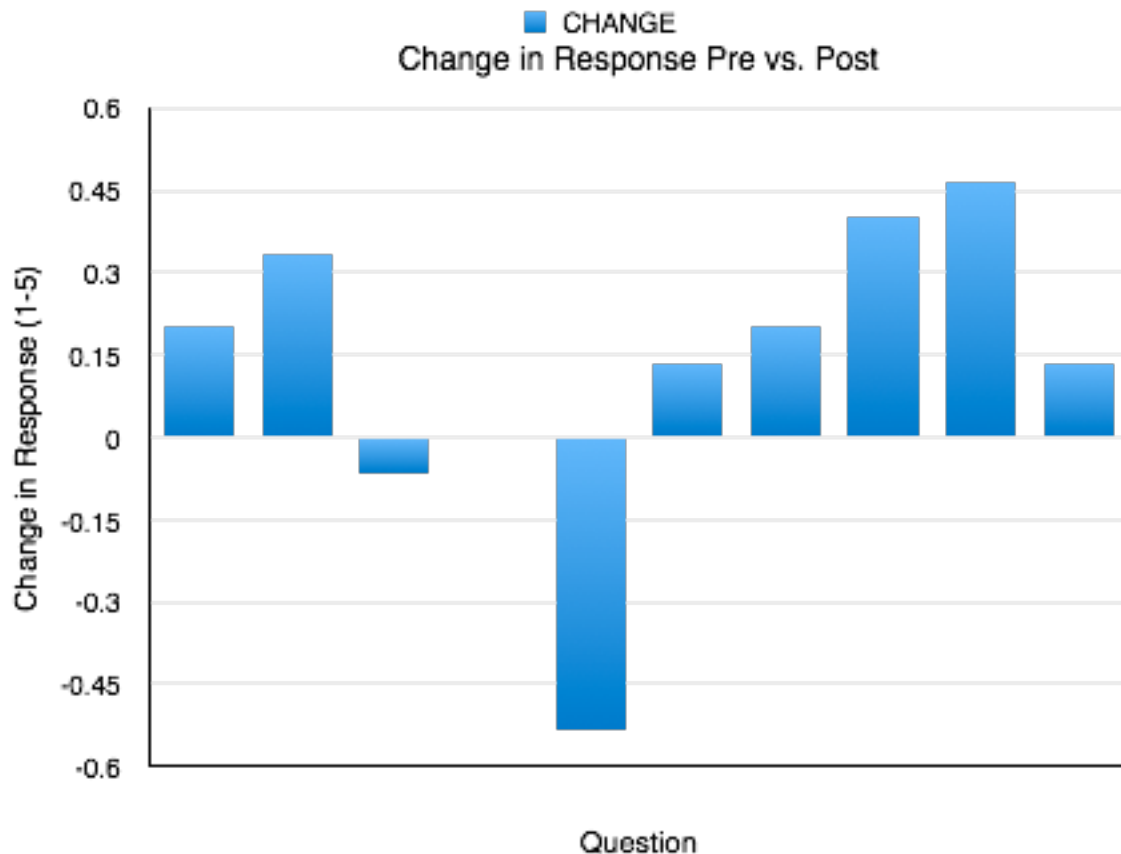
Analysis and Verification of Project Success

It is difficult to judge a film quantitatively. My goal was to help the client and their organization. Gathering research, I wanted to see if I accomplished this, if my video changed the opinions of the viewer. To judge this, I surveyed 15 students using a five point Likert scale before and after they viewed the film to see how their answers changed. I asked 10 questions to start, and an additional 13 after viewing the film. The questions I asked were as follows:

1. The prison system in the United States works.
2. People who have served their time and enter back into society are not likely to commit future crimes.
3. People released from prison have the necessary life skills to succeed once released from prison.
4. Prison time can reinforce rather than disrupt criminal behaviors.
5. People released from prison experience many obstacles without proper support.

6. People who go to prison, and then are released, should be treated like the criminals they are.
7. Job training is important for prisoners to facilitate their re-entry into society.
8. Drug and alcohol treatment is important for prisoners to facilitate their re-entry into society.
9. Support from the community is important for prisoners to facilitate their re-entry into society.
10. Increased funding to support more services to support re-entry into society is important.





The graphs above show the average responses by the 15 people surveyed and how their responses changed after watching the video. From the data collected there are two notable changes. The first is the change in the response to question 5, “People released from prison experience many obstacles without proper support.” This question had the highest change in response with a change of -.533. After watching the video, people felt they did not believe as strongly that prisoners experience obstacles without proper support once released. This tells me that most people do not know that programs like Restorative Partners are out there. The other notable data is the increase in responses to questions 8 and 9. From these responses, after watching the film, people agree that drug and alcohol treatment and support from the community are important for successful re-entry of prisoners.

The other three follow up questions I asked were:

- After viewing this video, I am more informed about the prison system.
- After viewing this video, I am more likely to donate, volunteer, or focus on other ways to help programs working to successfully reintegrate prisoners by assist prisoners during incarceration and after they have been released.

- This video has changed or reinforced my outlook on non-profit organizations, like Restorative Partners working to help all those impacted by crime, in a positive manner. Also asked on a 5 point Likert scale. All 15 people surveyed responded to the final question with either “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.” The other two questions had high positive responses. What stood out to me was, the demographic of the people surveyed were college kids, after watching this video majority of them responded saying they are “more likely to donate, volunteer, or focus on other ways to help.”

The numbers of the data I collected supported what I set out to achieve. However, the numbers that support my project more than any survey could, were the responses from the fundraising banquet. The banquet tripled the fundraising from the previous year. This was only the second year the event ran; however, Sister Theresa attributed a lot of the success in fundraising to the video I showed at the banquet. In our closing meeting together, she said, “I had family members come up to me after the film, who have known what I have been doing, who have been helping me for years, say to me, *‘Sister, what can I do to help? I’m not doing enough.’*” This confirmed the success of the video, that it exceeded the expectations of the client, and that it was a meaningful film bigger than myself that will help others.

Societal Impacts

Working with non-profit organizations like Restorative Partners, just working with them and lending a helping hand has a societal impact. Restorative Partners is a new program just getting started in the San Luis Obispo community, but already they have a lot of support from people around the community. Their goal is to improve restorative justice, and “help and heal all those impacted by crime.” To help a program like that in anyway has societal impacts.

My film was shown at the second annual Restorative Partners fundraising banquet,. They have only been around for about three years, but are already making great strides in building their program. As a non-profit, their annual banquet is their major source of funding. At their second annual banquet, Restorative Partners tripled their funding from the previous year. This was in part due to the video I created for them. This video will also live on their website. It will be used to promote the program

and show what great achievements they can make, and the people going through their program can accomplish.

The biggest social impact that came from the film for me, was the impact of working with Malachi. This impacted **me** more than society, but working with him and becoming friends with him was an incredible experience. I got to know Malachi and hear his whole story; he told me things that he hadn't shared with many people. He allowed me to tell his story, and was comfortable and trusted me enough to tell me the whole story. He is a very vocal and outspoken guy, but said he does not feel that comfortable in front of a camera. However, working with me, he said I "made it easy to sit down and just talk to the camera." It felt good knowing this: that I could make him feel comfortable doing this, and that we are hopefully able to help others by telling his story in such a positive way. However, even better than that feeling, was being able to go back to the Men's Honor Farm with him. Being able to film him as he went back to where he once was incarcerated, where he found his change, and film him there as a free man. That feeling beat everything else for me, he gave that to me, and I was able to capture it and document it, and turn around and share it with others.

Future Work

I originally started this project trying to get into sports media and do a sports documentary. My influences were just that, with the *E:60* and *30 For 30* documentaries. However, working with Restorative Partners and Malachi, there were no sports involved. I really enjoyed working with them and it showed me something, it showed me that it was not just the sports that I was interested in. Looking back at the documentaries, the sports are just what the subjects are known for, but what they really do is they take these athletes and they show them to you as people. What I learned from this project is I like people, I like working with people, and I believe everyone has a story to tell. I set out to do a film that I would be proud of and I did just that. I intend on using this video to show future employers what I have done and what I can do, and I intend on continuing to do films and projects like this.

Restorative Partners as well intends on doing projects like this. In my closing meeting with them, we discussed continuing this relationship between them and Cal Poly. They believe everyone going through their program, the future Malachi's, also

have stories to tell. They would like to show videos like this each year at their annual banquet and are looking to work with Cal Poly students to continue that.

From what I understand, my project will live in the archives of the library with other senior projects, but it was also Media Arts and Technology's project as well. I've been told my video will also live in that department as well, to show future students the types of projects you can do in that class and in that program. It will be used to show the next generation of MA&T students in hopes of inspiring them, to set the bar hoping to push past it.



Conclusion

This was more than I could have asked for out of a senior project. I set out to merely make a film to learn about the process, but I got an experience like nothing else and I created something bigger than myself. The video will be posted to Restorative Partners website and will also be show to future MA&T students, with the hopes that it inspires those who watch it. I learned a lot about the production process, about working with groups and meeting the clients' expectations. I am in a better position for what comes after college. I made a lot of mistakes, hit some bumps along the way, but it was

all a learning experience. The Restorative Partners banquet was mainly run by Cal Poly students with their senior projects, they are looking to continue this relationship between the two organizations and I hope I helped to improve that. I have learned a lot about where I want to go professionally in the future and will build off this and continue projects like this. I cannot wait to see what is in store next.

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The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2byCdSgIZk>