**Assignment #1**

***Q: Having your expectations well laid out and your goals clearly defined is the best way to start any endeavor. Therefore, for your first written assignment, write a 1-2 page paper detailing what you want out of the program, what you want to eventually do in the film industry, and how you plan on getting there. Be as detailed as possible. Be specific. This will allow us to help structure your education around your individual needs. No detail is too small.***

The choice of applying to this program was quite a process for me. I spent countless hours of online research and debating back and forth with the idea of whether or not attending film school was the correct move for me. During this process I worked on all the supplemental materials necessary for me to apply to NYU, USC, and UCLA and was fully prepared to complete my applications to these institutions. I know that these are prestigious institutions and the acceptance rate is not the highest but I was willing to put my name in the running. I then stumbled across the Film Connection program and began to wonder if going to a Grad program would truly give me what I call a “complete education”. My definition of a complete education is the infusion of textbook knowledge with hands on experience. I also started to question if having a grad degree gave me any leverage in the film industry at all as far as job placement. I am interested in the possible on set experience that can be obtained from the Film Connection as I want to ultimately learn how to navigate through the film industry independently. I want to not only be able to talk the talk with industry professionals but to be able to be on their level as far as the execution of filmmaking.

So why did I ultimately decide to pursue a film education? For starters, I believe that all knowledge and skills gained in any medium is priceless. Film was always an interest for me that became a passion after spending a day on the set of “I Am Legend” as an extra. Although it was a long day, being there gave me insight on the magic of what is shot to what is shown on screen. I became very curious of the “behind the scenes” of every film I watched. That interest is the driving force behind why I want to make my own stories come to life on screen. Thinking on my professional career in film, my ultimate dream is to have my own production company. I want to be able to produce my own films independently as well as work with established production companies. I want to tell stories in various genres from Crime Thrillers to Drama to Action & Comedy. I want to not only work on films but I also want to work on TV shows as well. Coming into the Film Connection I have read different screenwriting books such as “The Foundations of Screenplay” by Syd Field and am currently reading “Writing Screenplays That Sell” by Michael Hauge. I have 3 main areas of focus for my studies with the film connection. The first is story and character development. I want to learn all the principles necessary to write compelling stories with diverse and intriguing characters. I am currently working on some ideas prior to applying to the film connection that I would love to see come to fruition. The second is camera. I haven’t had much filming experience so learning the ins and outs of camera is vital to my film goals. I want to learn the different filming techniques used by the pros and how they accomplish certain shots such as aerial views, and other cool open shots. The third is editing. I have never edited my own project before. I filmed 2 short films on my own but a friend of mine did the editing. I would love to learn how to take the raw footage and blend it to tell the story. Out of the three areas of focus editing would be currently considered my weakest area since I have had the least experience in it.

I’m not 100% sure of how I will go about having my own production company but this is also knowledge I intend to gain during my time with the Film Connection. The overall goal of my film connection experience is to be able to take everything that I’ve learned and possess the skills necessary to be able to complete my own full-length film project from start to finish.

***Q: Think up three movie ideas and write a logline for each one. A logline is a one-to-two sentence description of a movie that tells you what is unique about the main character and what kind of interesting problem the main character faces***

* While trying to solve his biggest drug case of his career a DEA agent investigation brings him back to his hometown and the past life and the person he chose to run away from.
* After a few late night rendezvous, a man and a woman learn it’s not so easy to end their temporary fling as they learn they are somehow connected to each other through their individual professional network and circle of friends.
* A group of college roommates must find a way cut ties after taking on a notorious drug dealer under federal investigation as an investor in their party promoting business.