

**These are the strings that I used:**

**Impulse.** I used the string of impulse to come up with a theme for my project. I knew I wanted to tell a story so I wanted it to be personal. I had been singing the song around the house and I knew that I should use it for my project. It also was around my grandmother's birthday so I was thinking of her.

**Structure.** I chose the narration/music structure because It has been one of the easiest structures for me to work with this session. Because I am telling a story and singing the song, I am able to use simple accompaniment and not get too worked up about my playing.

**Character.** For the string of character I looked closely at using expression in both my storytelling and my song. I also used a green screen for the first time so I could use a background associated with a lullaby. I tried to use appropriate expression in the narration and I also tried to make it soft because the song is a lullaby. When I sang the song, I tried to make the lullaby soft and calming and also to make the accompaniment reflect the style of the song.

**Roles (Leadership/Fellowship; Bass, Melody, & Accompaniment;**

**Archetypes).** I used the string of roles in different ways. I used my voice for melody at all times. Sometimes I accompanied myself with arpeggios, but other times I used a single bass note and accompanied that with the rest of the chord in my right hand, usually an octave above. I did this so there would be some variation but also to provide some rhythm and to simulate what was happening in the song.

**Deconstruction.** I spent a lot of time looking for ways to make the song easier without just playing arpeggios as accompaniment. I went through the song measure by measure and found the measures where the music repeated and then I looked at the lyric. It made me realize that there was an opportunity for me to vary accompaniment according to what the lyric was actually saying because the music was doing the same thing.

**Lift-Off.** I was able to lift off when I realized that nothing is perfect.

**Give a short description of what it took for you to be able to play what you did – both logistically and emotionally.** Well, I had to practice this many, many times, since this was the first actual time I had played the song. Then, I had to deconstruct the piece and find the easiest ways to accompany myself with the harp. I learned from the class that I should use the harp as accompaniment, so I had to figure out the best way that could allow me to sing the song and play the harp without making me crazy. I also decided to use a green screen for the first time which was definitely a learning process. On an emotional level I had to accept that it was OK to make mistakes.

**What freedoms and blocks in yourself did you connect (or struggle) with in the process?**

Because of this class it was much easier for me to use my voice and feel good about it. I also really enjoyed the process of the storytelling and I will continue to use that. I liked my narration. However, I am always self-conscious about my lack of skill in actually playing the harp. It took a lot of work and practice for me to be able to play the piece and sing with it. However, because of my being a perfectionist, I made way too many videos before choosing the one I am presenting. I wasted a lot of time on that.

**What challenges did you meet while connecting with your own freedom of expression in this project?** I challenged myself to make the video very personal and feel comfortable doing it. I also challenged myself to be imperfect and accept my imperfections. I challenged myself to be “me” during my narration. I challenged myself to enjoy the process. I challenged myself to be satisfied with my harp playing and to vary the accompaniment. In the end I think I met the challenges. One issue was that when I shortened the script I had to leave out parts of the story that brought in some of my own personality, and I was sad about that. Another issue was in just trying to keep it as simple as possible, but not always doing that. I am a perfectionist so I tend to do things over and over and over. I was on my way to doing this with the filming because I would look at the video and not be happy with the emotion in my voice or how many notes I had played with my right hand or what I said in the narration or how many mistakes I made.

**Is there anything else you’d like to tell people who are looking at your project?**

Well, you will notice that some of the strings are erased in the video. This is because the lighting for the green screen was not correct. When this occurs some of the image may disappear. I filmed the video and went to Florida to visit my parents. When I got there I discovered the green screen problem but could not re-film.

**What Ahas did I have:** I realized that I had to Lift-off. That’s when I said, “nothing is perfect” — this is the last take and I am using it no matter what.

**I’d just like to say** that I was very proud to finish this project I am really looking forward to doing more. I learned a lot that will help me. I also learned that I like storytelling and in addition to playing at the bedside I should consider do concerts and

sing alongs in senior citizen facilities. Finally, when I finally uploaded the finished video it was ver choppy and blurry. If I ever find a way to fix this, I will post it on Facebook.