Pre-Production Planning Document (MONTAGE)

GENERAL INFO

1. **Your Name: Xiomara Saavedra**
2. **PROJECT:** Montage of West Haven

1. What must it be?

A video montage of West Haven, Connecticut, exploring the community's atmosphere, its changes since COVID-19, and the role local businesses play in bringing life to the area.

2. Who is it for?

West Haven residents, young adults living in suburban communities, and people interested in how local businesses contribute to a neighborhood's identity.

3. How long must it be?

   1-5 minutes

4. What is your objective with the piece?

My objective is to highlight West Haven's evolving community and how local businesses contribute to making the area more lively. But, I also want to acknowledge the lack of businesses in the area and how there's a lot of work to do. Ultimately, I think it would be beneficial to reflect on how my experience living here has shaped my understanding of suburban life in comparison to my life in Brooklyn.

5. When is it due?

Module 5

6. What is the overall idea?

I want to capture different parts of West Haven to show what everyday life looks like in this suburban community. Through my narration, I'll reflect on how different this experience has been from growing up in Brooklyn while focusing on the changes I've noticed in West Haven, especially since the pandemic.

7. What is the storyline summary?

The montage will begin with quieter residential areas of West Haven before transitioning into busier streets and local businesses. As the video progresses, I'll reflect on the community's changes since COVID-19 and how small businesses (and a lack thereof) contribute to its atmosphere. The montage will conclude by highlighting the importance of these spaces in creating a sense of community.

8. Elevator pitch:

My montage explores West Haven through the perspective of someone who grew up in New York City. By capturing the town's neighborhoods and local businesses, I want to show how the community has evolved since the pandemic and how these spaces contribute to its identity.

9. Tagline:

A Town in Transition

10. Look and feel description (including pacing):

I want the montage to feel warm, nostalgic, and hopeful. It will begin with slower shots of residential streets and gradually transition into quicker cuts of local businesses and areas with more activity. The pacing will reflect how different parts of West Haven contribute to the community's overall atmosphere.

SUBJECT

1. Why did you choose this location?

I chose West Haven because I've spent a lot of time here and have noticed how the community has changed, especially since COVID-19. Growing up in Brooklyn gave me a different perspective on suburban living, and I want to explore how small businesses are helping bring more life into West Haven.

2. Location ideas:

Campbell Avenue, downtown West Haven, local coffee shops, restaurants, independent storefronts, residential streets, and the West Haven shoreline.

NARRATION / HOST

3. Who will lead us through the piece?

I will narrate the montage through a voice-over, using my personal experiences and observations to guide the story.

4. Narration ideas:

I'll briefly discuss my experience growing up in Brooklyn and adjusting to suburban life before focusing on the changes I've noticed in West Haven. I want to highlight how local businesses contribute to the community and how my perspective on the area has evolved.

MUSIC

1. What is the overall mood and feel of the piece?

I want the montage to feel nostalgic, warm, and hopeful. The pacing will start slowly and gradually become more upbeat as I introduce different businesses and areas with more activity.

2. Music track ideas:

A mellow instrumental with jazz or lo-fi influences. I want something that feels nostalgic but still has enough rhythm to complement the movement and activity in the footage.

AMBIENT AUDIO

1. What is the location of the piece? If we close our eyes, where should we imagine that we are?

I want viewers to feel like they're walking through West Haven, experiencing its quieter residential neighborhoods before entering busier areas filled with local businesses and everyday activity.

2. Ambient audio ideas:

Passing cars, footsteps, birds chirping, conversations outside businesses, ocean waves near the shoreline, and the general sounds of people going about their day.

SOUND EFFECTS

1. What sound effects (SFX) would help tell this story? Why?

I want to use subtle sound effects that make the montage feel more immersive and emphasize the everyday activities that contribute to West Haven's atmosphere. I want to capture most of these sounds naturally.

2. SFX ideas:

Storefront doors opening, coffee machines, cash registers, footsteps, car doors closing, and the sounds of food being prepared.

PERMISSIONS

1. Am I allowed to film here? Do I need permission and/or a permit?

I plan to film primarily in public outdoor spaces, but I'll check local filming rules beforehand. If I want to film inside any businesses, I'll contact the owners or managers for permission.

2. Will any people be in my shots? Do I need permission and/or release forms?

People may appear in the background of outdoor footage. If I plan to feature anyone directly, especially employees or customers inside businesses, I'll ask for their consent and obtain release forms when necessary.

GENERAL

1. What gear do I need to pack and bring with me for the shoot?

My camera, extra batteries, memory cards, a tripod, a microphone or audio recorder, headphones, comfortable shoes, water, and weather-appropriate clothing.

2. How will I transport everything and keep it safe?

I'll travel between locations by car and keep my equipment organized in a camera bag. I'll avoid leaving gear unattended and back up my footage after filming.

3. Are there any potential hazards or complications at this location?

Unpredictable weather, traffic, pedestrians interrupting shots, background noise, and changing lighting conditions. Some businesses may also be too busy to accommodate filming, so I'll try to arrange permission ahead of time.

SCRIPT

Name: Xiomara Saavedra
Title: A Town In Transition

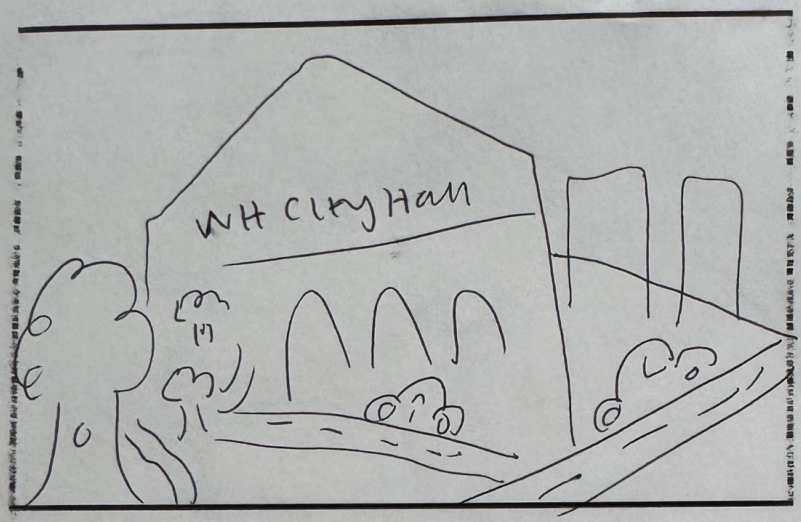
VIDEO	**AUDIO**

	(Fade music up) (Fade music out)
WS of West Haven streets and residential neighborhoods.	Growing up in Brooklyn, I was used to busy streets and having almost everything within walking distance. Moving to West Haven was a completely different experience.
Shots of Campbell Avenue, passing cars, and storefronts.	But over the years I've noticed how much this community has been changing.
	(Ambient sounds – traffic, cars, walking, talking)
CU of local businesses, cafés, restaurants, and people walking.	Small businesses have been bringing new life into the area, creating spaces where people can connect and support their community.
	(People talking)
Footage of business signs, customers, and everyday activity.	It's made me appreciate how even the smallest changes can influence the way a neighborhood feels.
WS of downtown West Haven or the shoreline, fading out.	West Haven might be different from where I grew up, but watching it evolve has helped me understand what makes a place feel like home.
	(Fade music up) (Fade music and ambient out)

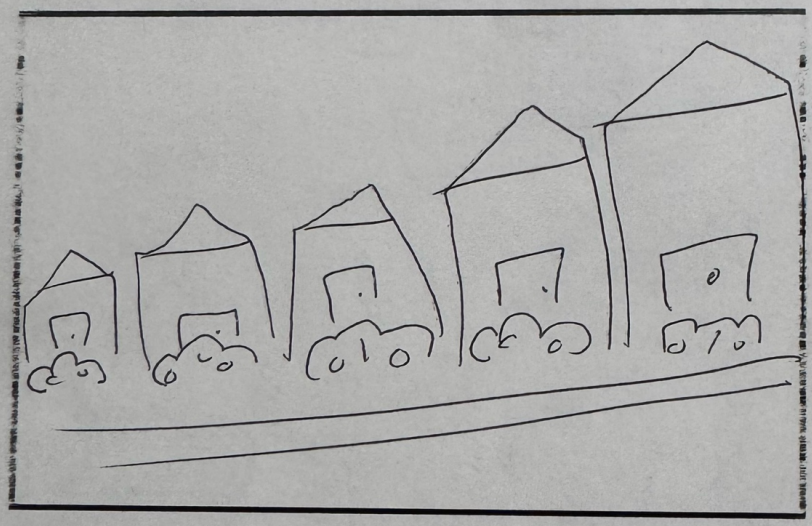
STORYBOARDS

Sketch out a storyboard, in sequential order, for **each** of the visuals listed in your script above. Be sure to clearly show the kind of shot (i.e. WS - Wide Shot, CU - Close Up, ECU - Extreme Closeup, O/S – Over Shoulder), and indicate any camera or subject movement. You might want to make a note of what this is and why this shot is important (i.e. “establishing shot for barn”, “show detail of blue flowers”, “show reflection of tree in fountain”, “visitor walking from right to left in frame”, etc.).

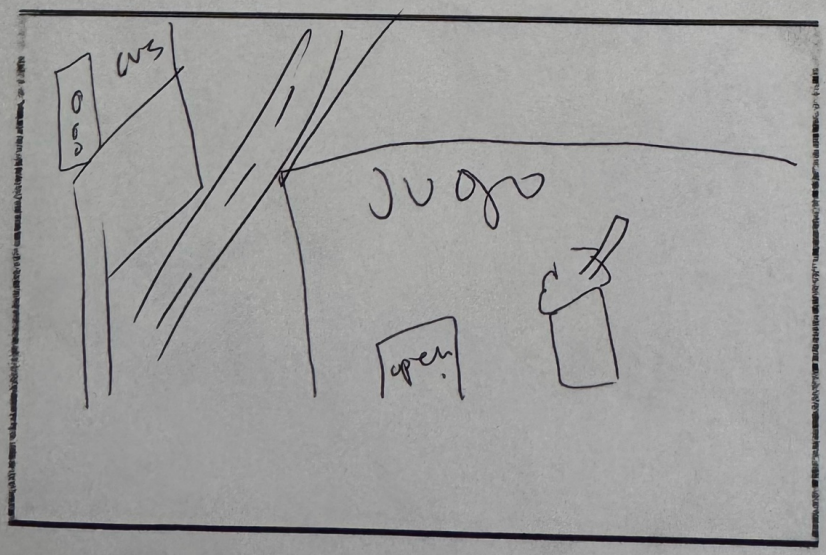
Print out and sketch (hand draw) on the separate *Storyboard Template* document, then scan or snap a photo of it to add the completed storyboards here (as JPG files). Make sure they are in order as the audience will see them.



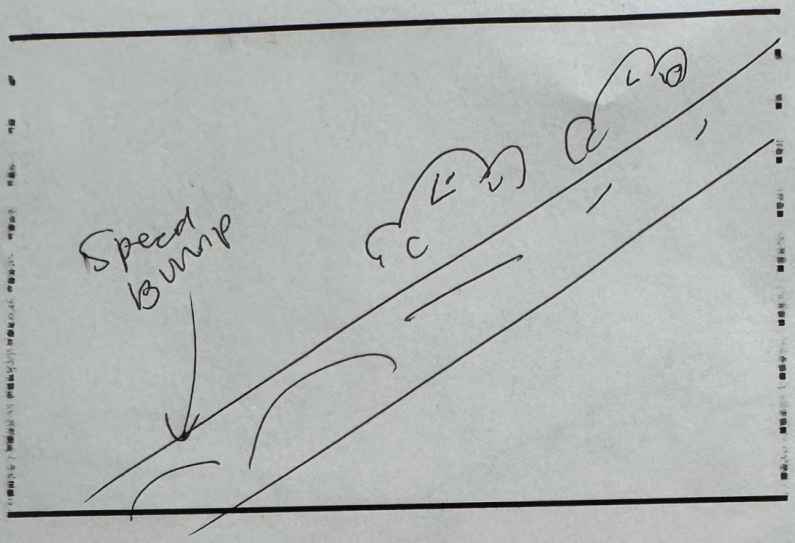
WH main street



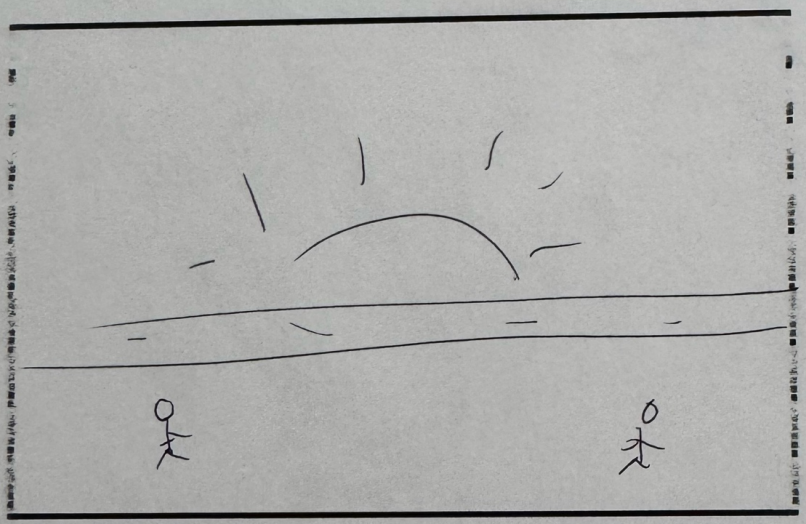
Residential areas



Local businesses



speed bumps & speed limit signs (shows increase in population / keeping regulations)



WH beach / smart nice closing sh.t.

CREATE A PDF

When you are done creating this document, you should create a universal PDF document that can be easily posted to your blog or emailed (it's not safe to assume everyone has Microsoft Word, and the files can be very large).

To do this on a Mac, click File>Print and then click the option for PDF in the lower left, followed by "Save to PDF". Contact me if you need help on a PC.