Progress Report

Project: Comfort Women
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Part 1: Where We Are

The first few weeks of class, we did a lot of discussion, brainstorming, and planning. We decided to tell the story of the Comfort Women because it's an important political issue and because we want to share the story in a way that's different than the usual one.

We talked a lot about how to tell this story, and decided to choose two characters -- both young Korean girls who became comfort women. Each girl's story could help tell about the history of the comfort women, and of Japan's treatment of Korea in the colonial era. We also decided on a number of supporting characters, like soldiers, the girls' families, other girls in the comfort stations, and more.

We have achieved a lot in the past few weeks. I worked in a group with Min Jee, Jae Ho, Yeong Mi, and Sanxiang to put together the first draft of the script for Hunam's story. We collaborated by email: each of us selected a section of the story, made suggestions, and then wrote an outline. When everyone agreed about the outline, we wrote the text, and then emailed it to classmates in order to edit it.

We have also decided to use photoshopped photographs. None of us are good artists, and we feel that we can have more impact by using photography to tell this story. It will be difficult, but we have gotten access to at least four DSLR cameras and several of us are good at using photoshop.

Part 2: What's Left to Do

We need to find some models for the story. We will do this by visiting several schools and also by working with an amateur drama club in Seoul. We will also need to get costumes. We're not sure how to do that, but Jae Ho and Minji are working on that.

We're waiting to get the script back from Professor Smith, and then we can start making storyboards. We estimate it will take about a week to make the storyboards, and then we will start making the art.

We also need to find some places appropriate for photography. Since the story is set mostly in Burma, we are thinking of going to Jejudo for some of the outdoor photography. The rest we will try to do on campus, in unused classrooms, and use photoshop to get the effects we need.

Also, we need to prepare our website. Soo Jin and Sanxiang are good webpage designers, so we're going to let them work on the website and hopefully it will be easy to set up.

Part 3: Necessary Planning

We have several things we still need to plan, such as:
- who will work on translating the dialog and caption boxes for the Korean version of this comic book?
- who will be focusing on doing the photoshop work? How will we organize our workflow?
- which students will become the main editors, who say whether the art is appropriate or not? We need one or two picky editors to decide whether art needs to be redone or is good enough.
- we need to figure out software licenses if we are using Photoshop.
- we need to book photography sessions for places off campus, and find suitable sites for photo shoots
- we need to get enough costumes
- we need a director for each photo shoot

Part 4: Learning

I personally feel that I have been learning the following things in this course:
- **Argumentation:** I learned a lot about how to argue my point of view. Because we disagreed about whether to tell a story about one or two comfort women, I got the chance to argue that we need two characters. I had to think about how to convince others of this, which was good practice in terms of public speaking.
- **Writing:** I had a lot of practice writing for this class. While we worked on the script, I had to think carefully about explain visual scenes using words, and I had to choose my words carefully for dialogs. Also, because our discussions on the class website always happen in English, I have gotten more writing practice there.
- **Planning:** I learned some useful skills related to planning and organizing. This makes me work in a professional way, and I think it's good training for when I graduate and get a job.

Part 5: Goals

Of course, we share the goal of finishing *Comfort* and publishing it online. We have a goal of making it the best book we can. But personally, my goals are the following:
1. I want to help design the appearance of the website where *Comfort* will be hosted online.
2. I would like to work on the Korean translation of *Comfort* and get it finished in time to post it to the website before the end of semester. I think it's important to make it available in both languages as soon as possible.
3. I would like to take part in at least one photo shoot. I'm not a good photographer, but I think it would be good to help, or even to learn how to shoot pictures with a DSLR. Maybe I can take a few of the shots in the book? This would make me happy.
4. I want to help make sure the website has at least 1,000,000 hits during its first month online. To do this, I will be sending letters to newspapers and magazines in Korea, contacting TEFL websites, contacting TV news stations, posting the link on sites like DCInside, and more.