For this soundscape narrative, I initially envisioned it to be a short, 5-minute documentary for Kobe Bryant, who was one of the greatest role models that I’ve looked to ever since I was a little kid. This project will highlight the major ups and downs of Kobe’s basketball career, as well as his philosophy of Mamba Mentality – which has instilled in me the values of perseverance, tenacity, consistency, and always striving to be the best and achieving great excellence. The main objective of this project is to make the listeners feel a thread of connection, to be uplifted by Kobe’s story and feel inspired and motivated to keep pursuing whatever goals they have in mind no matter how difficult it can be. I also want to use this as an opportunity to remind everyone to cherish their own lives and their loved ones. Because life is very short, and no one knows what the future will hold.

To accomplish this goal, I first had to watch and sift through many (30+) of his interviews, speeches, and documentaries on YouTube to pinpoint and sort out the perfect lines and phrases that I want in my auditory project. As you can see in my sources.md document, I took short clips from a total of 26 videos. I wanted to combine these clips to create an engaging narrative that covers the story of Kobe. I’ve included both the some of the good and bad moments of his life to convey that he had to work diligently and earnestly to reach to the top and that he faced his struggles and injuries head on without any fear, because he wanted to set an example for his daughters and fans. I’ve also included four different instrumental songs to complement each part of the narrative to elicit a variety of emotional responses from the listener. After showing my soundscape preview to the class, some suggested that I should also incorporate clips that showcase other players’ perspectives on Kobe and what they’ve learned from him. So I also included that in the later half of this project.

To be frank, this was very long and arduous process, which involved listening and sifting through a bunch of clips, constantly going back and forth to pinpoint and cut out the best lines, and trying to get the background music to line up with them. It was also kind of challenging coming into using Audacity, which I had only a little experience in prior to this. I had to learn how to navigate around the basic interface, how to import audio clips and moving them on the timeline, how to use the “Effects” function to add in cool effects to some clips to enhance the original intended effect, etc. but it was cool that I’ve learned to use effects such as “noise reduction” to tone down the background noise from some of the interview clips I’ve selected, as well as using “amplify” to make the audio louder without distorting it. I even tried the little “fade in” effect in one of clips at the end.

With all that trial and error and experimentation, I think the final project turned out really well and it is something that I can be proud of. Although it ended up to be way pass the 5-minute maximum, I think it was definitely worth it because I think the end product definitely has accomplished what I originally set out to do – to create a narrative that can inspire and motivate the listener.

Lastly, Rest in Power, Kobe.