

Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:



Title

- *Truly Anxious*
- The title of my series has a double meaning hidden within it. The words “Truly Anxious” represent character that we follow throughout the series, a character with anxiety. I thought this set the tone for what you could expect from just reading the title. The other meaning comes from the acronym “TA” because the main character becomes a TA for a screenwriting class in the series. TA stands for Truly Anxious. Get it?

Genre

- Comedy-Drama
- The series is primarily comedy centered but many of the topic presented are very serious and real topics from the real world. Things like mental health, school, relationships, etc.

Synopsis

- Meet *Peter Layne*, a 22-year-old film grad student at Carson University, present day Philadelphia. Peter has a severe anxiety disorder that effects his everyday decisions and relationships. One day Peter gets a call that he’s been selected to be the new TA for a screenwriting section after another TA dropped out. He isn’t ready for such a task, he never expected to actually become a TA, but now it’s his time to shine. As the youngest TA there, Peter wrestles with the professor, who is the most bizarre professor at the university, the dysfunctional students, who manage to listen to nothing Peter says, the film department, who doesn’t take him seriously, and the other 24-year-old TA, Juliet, who is determined to proof herself the better TA. On top of battling all this, Peter battles his crippling anxiety, something that he fights with every day with every decision and choice he makes. But somehow, he’ll make it work.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name:

- Peter Mason Layne

Physical

- Peter is 22 years old, white, about 5 foot 11 inches tall. He is fairly well put together with short brown hair that's slightly styled in the front with blue eyes and pale skin and a completely shaven face. He's skinny, with slightly skinny jeans and vans shoes. He usually only wears a T-shirt, but he starts to wear more button downs as the series goes on. He has a Philadelphia accent.

Personality

- One might describe Peter as shy, but once you get to know him, he's very talkative and funny. He's not one to public speak or talk in class, let alone teach one. He's very anxious and isn't very good at decision making or taking leadership roles. He doesn't stand up for himself very often and tends to be walked on. A positive is that he's really nice and has a lot of compassion towards other people. He likes movies, videogames, and sports but really dislikes celery.

Life Experiences

- When he was 10 his father suddenly died from a heart attack without warning. His father was his best friend, Peter was never the same after that. He developed anxiety and depression afterward leading to a lack of friends and a recluse and distraught mother.
- When he was 15, he met his best friend Sean in his math class. This was Peter's first real best friend and the only person that really gave Peter a chance. Sean is very outgoing and a little reckless compared to Peter. Sean helped peter become more outgoing and talkative during his high school years and into college. Sean helps peter as an emotional crutch and motivational speaker. Sean graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and is living in Philadelphia near Peter.
- When he was 19, Peter was approached by a girl at a college party he was forced to go to. She brought him into a room and tried to convince him to have sex with her, but Peter had a panic attack and ran out of room after getting her off of him. Peter is still a virgin at 22 and is afraid to be intimate with a girl in fear of being an emotional wreck.

Current Situation

- Peter is living in an apartment near the university. He frequently hangs out with Sean, but he mostly just plays video games and does work. Sometimes he works on a film set but he's never anything important, maybe the production assistant. When we first see him, he's just gotten a call to become the new TA for section 2 of a screenwriting class. At the moment he has no significant other, one friend, and a supportive mother. He has a final film thesis due in a couple months, but he tries not to think about it yet. He's relatively okay in life, he's not depressed but he's not overly happy either.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Peggy Olson: *Mad Men*
- I chose this character because I really liked the characterization of Peggy in the first episode and her subsequent character arc throughout the first season and into the others. The qualities I took from Peggy include many things. For one, I really like how timid but smart she is, it shows how she wants to be someone but is walked on by almost everybody in the office. I used this for Peter, as Peter is very smart and gets walked on by everybody he works with. But throughout the series, just like Peggy, Peter will show strength under the timid surface.

Character Inspiration 2

- Mary Richards: *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*
- I chose this character because I like the idea of someone starting a new job abruptly and being thrust into a new situation. I think it makes for a compelling narrative. This character inspired most of the plot for my series. I took inspiration from Mary's independent nature and need for acceptance as Peter goes into this new chapter in his life with new relationships and responsibilities. I'd like to think they are both sort of growing up even though they're both grown-ups.

Character Inspiration 3

- Ross: *Friends*
- I took inspiration from Ross because I always found his character to be very interesting. He's a very smart guy but he always tries to hide his more "feminine" attributes and attitudes. I thought I'd take inspiration from him and make my character the same sort of "feminine" but paint it as a good thing that Peter tries to hide but eventually learns that he really shouldn't have to. I like the idea of breaking gender roles and having a male character that has emotion, empathy, and all of the sappy stuff even though he's supposed to be a big strong male protagonist.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: Establishing Shot – 1 sec

- I chose for the first shot, an establishing shot of Peter's hand shaking as he stands on the side of a road at a crosswalk deciding when to cross. I chose this as the first shot and an establishing shot to establish that it's in the city, and to show that he's an anxious person. I use the situation of a crosswalk in the city to show the audience who this character is and where they are set in the story. I think it gives the audience a clear understanding of how the tone of the series will be.

Technique 2: Dutch Angle Shot – 29 sec

- I chose this shot for when he gets the news that he's the new TA while on the phone because I like the way it makes the audience feel. A Dutch angle is commonly used to show a sense of distress or abnormality and I think having this shot shows the characters anxiety and confusion while also making the audience feel disoriented and scared along with the character. Almost as if Peter's world just got crooked in some way or another.

Technique 3: Extreme Closeup Shot – 32 sec

- I chose this shot for the ending when he's looking at the class because I wanted to show the sense of panic that Peter is feeling with the extreme close up of his face. An extreme close up usually signifies importance or urgency/serious situations. I want to juxtapose this close up shot with the wide shot of the class to show that to him, this is a serious situation that he's probably going to have an anxiety attack over, to the students, it's just another class they can slack off in.