Before beginning the project, I had already heard of Nollywood films. They seemed interesting but I had never watched a film. This project presented the perfect opportunity to analyze and reflect on this movement. Nollywood was a term coined in the early 2000s, however, it began in 1992. The Nigerian film industry is the third largest in the world following the United States and India. In 2007, it was reported that Hollywood movies cost $35 million to produce. However, majority of Nollywood films cost less than $15,000. What makes this industry so prosperous and gain clout in less than 30 years?

The Nigerian film industry came about due to Nigerians wanting to see their own movies on television instead of American, British, and Indian films. Filmmaking was brought to Nigeria by colonization. The film mentions that the French had a great influence on how films were made. In 1992, the Nollywood film industry experienced their first blockbuster. *Living in Bondage* was a drama film that plenty of Nigerians could relate to. The desire for money in the slums of Lagos is staggering and film writers Kenneth Nnebue & Okechukwu Ogunjiofor wanted to create a film that would reach their audience. The storyline includes witchcraft and demons. Many people in Nigeria find those elements to be real and when it was included into movies, it was a must watch. The citizens have heard of satanic rituals, but have never seen or experienced it. This film showed them something they’ve never seen before, but can ultimately relate to. This is one of the main reasons why Nollywood films are so popular amongst the people.
Nollywood directors shoot their films “Nollywood style” when they have a lot to get done. Nollywood style is when scene after scene is filmed. It was described as “pop pop pop style” within the film and the goal was to get majority of 59 scenes filmed. This quick filmmaking is evident by the big amount of films released in one year. The Nigerian Film Industry has an output of between 800 and 1500 films. Even though the industry makes a lot of money, some directors haven’t been to film school. They weren’t taught all the artistic ways that film has been used and produced. Eddie Ugbomah mentions that producing a lot of films at once isn’t good. If one is making films this expeditious then it must be “rubbish”. The constant production of movies never leaves Nigeria in a drought, waiting for new movies. Relatability and the eagerness of directors and actors make this whole industry a powerhouse. The film recognizes that Nollywood hasn’t had their classic film yet. America and India have been producing movies over 80 years longer than Nigeria has. It is only a matter of time before their films are deemed classic and production quality improves.

Watching the production of “Bent Arrows” and understanding the background of the Nigerian film industry was a great introduction into this genre. The interest level was low at the start, however, as I kept watching, I understood the character that these movies hold. The storylines are great and create the feel of suspense. Great criticism follows this movement, but that’s happened with the Indie movement, Realism and other film movements. Wealth, voodoo, and faith are all prominent themes in these films that draw in an audience. Knowing that Nigerians are recovering their own style from the one imposed on them helps bring clarity to why Nollywood films are made the way they are. I enjoyed the film and this assignment for opening my eyes to different types of films and film movements.