The Five Stages - Peninsula

- Really great work here - the script, cinematography and editing come together to create a really engaging and cohesive film.
- Good credits and ACDA logo - however it would have been good to also include the character names next to each actor. If a casting agent saw this film and wanted to contact someone - they'd find it frustrating to not know who played who. Additionally, it's easier to provide feedback on characters if their names are listed. So apologies if character names are incorrect!
- The time-bending structure of the script works well and the dialogue feels believable. At first it seems unrealistically harsh when of the guys (I think his name is Matt) suggests to the group that they abandon Stella's body. But when he says "I'll never get into Melbourne Uni", you understand the stakes a lot better. They're all worried about how this will affect their future long term - and this makes their tough decision feel more believable. As an audience, we can fully see how they justify their decision - this is always important in film storytelling. Indeed, the emotional crux of the film is how this difficult decision has affected the group.
- The camera angles are very creative, and when the camera moves, it's always motivated by action in the frame.
- Good editing throughout. The final scene is particularly effective - where the group walk away and we cut from a close up of their faces to them later that day.
- It's great that you sought permission from Kingswood to use their music. Not only is this a good practice as a film producer, but the tracks you picked fit the film really well and give it a lively, cinematic feel.
- There are a couple of moments that felt like they could have been tightened up in either the script or the edit. Particularly at 1:06, we watch the car pull up, the girl walk from the car to the house, from the door to her bedroom, and then from her bedroom to the bed. This takes about 50 seconds, which is a big chunk of time in a 7 minute film. This scene would be equally effective if you cut straight from the shot of her walking towards the house to her sitting on her bed - the audience will be able to fill in the gaps, and you'll still get the sense that she's holding back the emotions when outside. It can be a good exercise in editing (or scripting) to strip the scene right back to the minimum possible time it would take to get the required info across, and see if it makes sense or feels too fast. You can always add shots back in later, and often the shorter version will be more effective than you expect.
- Throughout the whole film, the audio track is slightly out of sync with the video by about half a second. This can be distracting when the actors speak and their lips don't quite match their voice. It's particularly obvious at 1:15 - when we hear the car door noise before we see it slam shut, or at 4:34 - where we hear the clink of bottles before we see it. This could be an issue with the camera or with the YouTube player itself, but it's most likely an issue with the export. Some editing programs are a bit temperamental with audio editing, so if you couldn't make the tracks line up in your export, a quick fix would be to reimport your exported movie back into your software, move the audio track until it's in sync and then export it for a second time. You could use a visual cue such as the car door slamming to line the audio track up correctly.
- Overall a great effort!