

Mini Documentary

Your group of four will select a common topic to research and produce four mini documentaries on. Each member will create a one – three minute documentary. They can each stand alone or someone in your group to could weave them into a whole. When you are complete you should create a new project that will include each of the documentaries so you can produce a DVD that plays all four projects.

Story Structure

Introduction: You should start by engaging our interest in your story. Hook us with in the first 10 – 15 seconds → Pose a provocative question, share an interesting set of facts, or describe why your character is so engaging.

Body: Use your interview of your subject and your narration to glue together an interesting story. Your story will really come alive if you include video of the topic or subject that helps to tell the story. This could be used as Broll over the interview and as a stand alone clip with the natural sound. As you conduct the interview, have the audio and camera operators listening for these opportunities and then have them follow up by getting these shots.

Conclusion: Explain the lesson you learned or the moral of the story.

Example: National Public Radio is a great source for good stories. Listen to a few and concentrate on their story structure.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1023>

Expectations

Story: A clear interesting story that follows the story structure outlined here.

Visual: The interview should be well framed (rule of thirds/look room) and well lit.

Broll and stand alone clips that add visual interest and help to tell the story.

Use a tripod during the interview and when ever possible.

Audio: Clear interview and narration (recorded later). Include natural sound from the interview location when possible (don't forget to record a minute of room tone).

If music is used it should be copyright free, help to tell the story and not interfere with the interview/narrators audio.

Titles: Include a lower third and title for each interview. Include rolling credits.

Turn It In: Please provide a DVD that plays all your group DVD's. Extra credit for creating a custom DVD menu or a DVD label graphic.

<http://sharepoint.svsd410.org/mshs/dockeryj/digitalimaging/DVD%20Designs/Photoshop%20Templates/dvd%20label%20template.psd>

Tips

- Record 30 seconds of black at the beginning and between each interview. Record a 3-5 second head/tail for all your Broll and stand alone clips.
- Provide the interviewee the questions prior to the interview if possible. If this is not possible, give them 5 – 10 minutes to read over the questions and think about their answers.
- Record the interviewee stating their name and spelling it slowly at the beginning.
- Ask the interviewee to restate the question in their answer (we will not hear you asking the question on the final video). Also ask them to think about the question for 2 -4 seconds before answering.
- Pause after the interviewee finishes and asking your next question

Documentary Rubric

Names: _____

Group Topic _____

Description	Possible	Score
Interesting hook.	10	
Video and images that are properly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Framed ➤ Exposure (use a light or reflector if at all possible!) ➤ White balance 	10	
Thoughtful questions that allow the interviews to tell an interesting story	10	
Strong interview audio (clean and clear <- Use a microphone!)	10	
Interesting Broll and images that help to tell the story and break up the interviews	10	
Lower third and easy to read titles for each person interviewed. Text and lower third fit the topic.	10	
Editing that removes all the wasted time, leaving the best of the interviews and Broll to telling your story in as concise a method as possible (cut it to the bone)	10	
Credits that include all the production crew, interviewees, sources of information, music and Broll. Think of this as your bibliography on a report.	10	
Organized production notebook that includes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Treatment b. Interview questions c. Storyboard e. Release forms 	10	
Total	100	
Extra Credit		
Music that compliments the topic and does not over power the interview audio (copyright free)	10	
Custom DVD menu graphic and/or DVD label	10-20	