

Short Documentary Movie on a Social Theme (25%)

(three people/group)

Due: October 13

Requirement summary

- Written proposal
- Storyboard and script
- .mov format
- 640 x 480 dpi
- Finished length 5-10 mins
- Permissions and copyright
- Sound
- Evaluation by group members
- Artist Statement

Criteria for assessment

- Concept
- Execution of the idea;
- Originality of your approach and artistic merit
- Your ability to communicate your story effectively
- Meeting deadlines and general requirements
- Evaluation by other group members

Objectives:

Project objectives

- Applying documentary filmmaking theory in real-life situation
- To experiment with notions of time and space
- To create a final narrative form that embraces your content in every manner possible - to make your work concrete
- To experiment with the continuity or flow of content from sequence to sequence, image to image, thought to thought in a linear fashion based on what you are trying to communicate
- At the completion of the project, students will have developed the following skills:
 - Project management skills
 - Managing video clips
 - Organizing and planning a sequence
 - Creating an original sequence
 - Identify audience, purpose, and goals

Design skills

- Identifying shot techniques
- Understanding the digital video workflow
- Using music to enhance a story

Research and communication skills

- Understanding files types
- Understanding copyright issues
- Communicating with group members
- To understand and apply the filmmaking process

Technical skills

- Understanding the FCE workspace
- Editing
- Working with audio

Why documentary

Documentary filmmaking provides the platform to tell a story, one in which the viewer is invited in to become a part of relationships, tears, smiles, excruciating circumstances and incredible accomplishments. When someone is able to participate in a story and feel a part of it, they become motivated to act, as is the case often when someone physically becomes woven into relationships and circumstances in a particular place. And so documentaries serve as the bridge to breakdown barriers, expose, teach, move, stir and change the ones who see. So film on.

Project Description

Create a narrative collage addressing social/environmental/political/cultural issue that is close to your heart. There has to be something you have an opinion on. It can be local, national, international... Observe your surroundings, read news, talk to your friends. Have something to say that is worth spending the semester on of social/cultural significance. Write a one paragraph summary of the theme and your intention and bring it to class. Do some (internet) research on the theme to get some interesting insights. Assemble relevant materials, bring to class.

Requirements

- Written proposal (you will get a separate handout)
- Relevant sketches and storyboard and script for more scripted scenes
- The movie is exported in .mov file
- Minimum size 640 x 480 dpi
- Finished length 5-10 minutes
- The movie contains detailed credits
- Primary sources are encouraged (which means you shoot the footage.) If you use secondary sources, editing has to alter and add significantly to the original footage, follow your own story and be with your own narrative, overall length 10 mins minimum.
- You need to obtain all relevant permissions and not violate copyright laws
- Sound complementing visuals
- Fill out evaluation and grade your group members
- Artist Statement: Explain your original idea, what you are trying to achieve and how it works. Not more than a hundred words.

For next class:

- Break into groups of three people, exchange contacts, meet to discuss possible topics
- As a group, write a list of three possible topics with a short discussion about what the topic is about and how you could go about making the movie.
- Researching the topics and bring materials to class. Assemble relevant materials.
- Assess your resources: do you have a car? Can you interview the subjects, go to the location, obtain the footage? Do you have a camcorder or a camera with video capabilities?