

Video Production

Documentary Assignment

*Nine-week Assessment**

- 1) Screen the documentary, *The Town That Was* (2007)
- 2) Respond with a documentary of your own production.



For this assignment you will plan, direct, shoot, and edit a single-camera mini-documentary video. The finished product should be a minimum of twenty minutes long and ethically present either an informative or persuasive message appropriate to the subject matter. Examples include a biography of someone you know (i.e., family member, community figure, or someone with potential interest to a general audience); an informational piece on a worthwhile community organization or institution; a nature appreciation piece; or a persuasive documentary presenting a particular perspective regarding an issue of moral or social justice. Regardless of the type of documentary you choose, it needs to contain the following elements (rubric to follow):

- a narrator's voice (off-screen)
- personal interviews
- at least three audio segues designed to enhance continuity
- use of background music
- use of panning or zooming on freeze frames
- use of still photographs
- use of on-screen text (including title and names of person(s) appearing)
- titles/credits

The assignment will unfold in three stages. (1) **Preproduction:** You will prepare the preproduction elements of your project (see below), which include a clear and detailed **typed** proposal and accompanying storyboard for shooting and editing. Details of recording or obtaining desired audio elements should also be discussed. (2) **Production:** After submission and approval of this proposal you will film the visual component of your video and record or otherwise obtain the audio component of your video. This stage should emphasize visual literacy, artistic creativity, and motivated camera and audio recording work. *After filming and initial audio recording, you will present examples of your raw footage to the class, along with a discussion for editing (draft assignment).* (3) **Postproduction:** Finally, you will edit your video with Windows Movie Maker and master to WMV. The visual and audio aspects should reinforce one another and foster a meaningful viewing experience. The due date for the completed assignment is 12/22, the final day of the first semester. Presentations will follow return to school second semester.

Individual Assignments

- Typed proposal (save as "proposal" to your *Documentary* folder): **Due 10/27** (you have one week)
- Storyboard: **Due 11/10** (you have two weeks)
- Random but multiple Progress grades: **Randomly checked**
- Draft assignment (5 minutes and scenes minimum, all assets saved to *Documentary* folder): **Due 12/1** (you have three weeks)
- Final draft (.wmv, saved to *Documentary* folder): **Due 12/22** (you have three weeks) **This is your Nine-weeks Assessment Grade**

Based on: <http://academic.regis.edu/jgschwin/425minidoc.htm>

* This is a major, nine weeks-long assignment. On days you are not working on the HSTV Newscast, you are expected to work on this project. Mrs. Janes will regularly check on your progress. If you are not making progress, you are not earning progress credit.