**Media and Tech**

**Final Film**

Class 1

* Selecting a topic
* Asking the right questions. What is your film REALLY going to be about?
* Making the subject comfortable with the material
* Shock. Stand-out. Staying power. Why will I remember your film?
* How will you leave the viewer with a clear view of how you feel on the issue, but let the viewer decide for themselves.

Class 2

* Brainstorm for ideas. Begin by writing an outline. Answer the question- what am I looking to prove?
* Write a film synopsis. Have a guideline to follow but allowing the subjects to tell the story.

Class 3

Go through handout.

Class 4

Pitch the idea. Studio, have to get my approval.

“In a three line synopsis, sell me on your idea.”

Class 6-10

Filming and editing.

Give student’s tips

1. Can’t be wrong if you have the stats to back up your argument.
2. Never have a self-serving cause.
3. Passionate and personable.
4. Can’t quit (let the interview run its course, you never know what type of magic you might find)
5. 80% of people respond to imagery better than they do to words.

Class 11-12

Opening night.

**Doc Film Director Name:**

**Self Evaluation**

**Passion, do you feel like you were able to effectively present your POV? Do you feel like your message reached the intended audience? How?**



**Do you peak viewer interest by making connections with your audience?**

**What questioning techniques did you use to get the best interviews with your interviewees?**



**Clarity – How did you organize your film to make it logical, and easy to understand?**



**How will you reach people, what kind of effect will this have?**



**Based on what you have just told me above, what mark would you give yourself if you were on a Film Judging Panel?**

**/20**

Judge’s Rubric

Voice – Does your film have a clear voice? Is it easy for the viewer to understand what you are trying to say? Can they understand you visually? Is there a clear sense of audience?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Fluency – Is there a sense of flow within your video? Do you try to capture a broad spectrum of persons? Is the camera aware of body positioning and the ability to speak without words? Do your questions invoke a variety of response?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Editing– Do you explore various aspects of the software to visually represent your voice? Are the cuts broken or seem out of place, or does the video flow smoothly?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Sound - Have you attempted to incorporate sound effects into your production?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Organization – Does it have an original title? Is there a clear beginning, middle and end? Are the ideas presented in a clear and logical order? Have you used appropriate transitions? Are their clear relationships among ideas?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Artistic Appeal - The channel changer is never far away, are you able to keep the viewer’s attention?

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20

Judges Mark /70

Self /20

Participation /10

Grand Total /100

Key Steps to Making Your Final Movie:

*Tell a story you care about*

Start with a subject that excites you. If you’re lukewarm about the subject matter, chances are, the final movie will be too. Make a documentary you're passionate about and makes sense to YOU. There will be plenty of people who don’t “get” your idea. But if YOU get it, that’s what counts.

*Research*

Learn everything you can about your documentary subject. Sometimes the story lines are obvious, sometimes not. Do a lot of digging and follow leads; this is where you put on your reporter hat. Gather facts and search for leads on interesting characters, teams, places and story lines. The gems of your story are sometimes buried deep out of sight.

*Make a Plan*

Create an outline. Think about HOW you’re going to tell your story. What’s the structure? The style? Is there existing footage or photos that help tell your story or will everything need to be shot brand new? Who is your primary character(s)? What are you core story points? What are the elements of your story that are compelling and/or make you “tingle” with intrigue? How can you create that intrigue for your audience? Is there some existing situation you can film or do you need to create the moment?

*Write a Script*

Pinpoint the most compelling elements of your story and start crafting "mini-scenes" around those events. A script describes what the audience is seeing AND hearing. Give yourself an idea of what the most important scenes are going to look like, sound like, feel like. You can do any other scenes at a later point.

*Create a Shot List*

This is a list of the footage and interviews you’ll need to make your movie. Think of it as your list of “ingredients”.

If you are doing a documentary style film, consider how many interviews you use. You may be tempted to put a lot of people on your interview wish list. Again, there are no rules because each documentary has its own set of circumstances (maybe there’s a reason to interview 100 people), but in general, it’s hard for an audience to get to know more than 7-8 “characters” within one movie. So even if you interview 100 people, don’t be surprised if you are only able to fit a fraction of them into your movie.

*Start Shooting*

Make sure when you're shooting an event to capture a variety of angles including close-ups, medium, etc. Shoot way more footage than you think you will need.

*Begin Editing*

It’s like putting together a great big puzzle! First you'll need to choose your video editing computer and video editing software. Once you're all set with equipment, you'll start putting down your clips of footage one right after the other in a sequence. The art with editing is to create a "roller coaster" ride of emotion, some parts fast, some part slow to create a dynamic viewing experience.

*Check Legal and Copyright Issues*

*Share!*

Of course, now that you’ve done all the work making your film, you want people to see it, right?