

English 106
Fall 2009
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Documentary Project

Our third project of the semester challenges you to draw together several skills that you have acquired to compose a documentary presenting the following:

- 1) A particular social group. Reflect on personal experience/reference points.
- 2) Show how this group functions on a local level
- 3) Show how this group functions on a national level
- 4) Follow an exploratory format, delving into larger social issues.

I invite you to be creative and to work in groups on this project, developing your angle of vision through use of documentary techniques in "When the Levees Broke;" "Spellbound;" and short documentaries. Although you are not expected to be an expert in filmmaking, your use of editing, voiceover, sound/music, and interviews need to build a clear and engaging portrayal of your social group, in order to communicate your message. Follow the format of the Outsider Paper, moving from what you previously knew about your social group to what you observe and who you interview, and finally, using research that informs the audience of a larger social context.

See **Sample Outline: Outsider** on the course website.

Project Requirements:

- Project Proposal (If in a group, list positions such as editor, videographer, narrator/writer and tasks for which you will each be responsible.)
- Groups should not exceed 4 members. Choose your group wisely. You must communicate clearly and share the workload equally within your groups.
- 8 GB + Flash Drive or other storage device (external hard drive or DVD)
- 6-10 minute Documentary - Presented in class and turned in on a CD/flash drive.
- Incorporate different types of shots (interview, long shot, medium shot, close-ups, landscape, action, dialogue)
- Editing: Documentaries should be highly edited. No static shot longer than 20 seconds. Come see me if you would like an exception.
- Capture a sense of setting.
- Capture distinct personalities (See "Spellbound" or "When the Levees Broke")
- Use outside footage that illustrates larger social scale
- Reflection Paper (1 Page) - Reflect on progress, successes and failures. How did you reach the end product that you hoped to achieve? What would you have done differently?

Deliverables:

- Project Proposal - due Thursday, November 19, in class.
- Documentary (20%) - due Monday, December 7 in class.
- Reflection Paper - due Monday, December 7 in class.