**Video Documentary Project: VDP Checklist**

*Combined Social Studies-Science Project Steps and Instructions*

1. **Description:**

* You have been assigned to a group that will produce a 10-15 minute Documentary Movie in QuickTime movie format. It is imperative that your Documentary be between

**5-8 minutes in length.**   Any submission, which is shorter than this, will be rejected.  (Extra time MAY be allotted under special circumstances upon approval from Mr. Glassford, Mr. Willey or Mrs. Davis.)

* All of the documents and scoring rubrics to help you complete this project are included in the packets given to each group as well as on Mr. Willey’s, Mr. Glassford’s and Mrs. Davis’ websites. The scoring for this assignment will have an 80-point baseline, which may or may not be multiplied to arrive at an appropriate score for the scope of the assignment.

1. **Components:**

* A documentary must be timely (current issue-ish) and lend itself to real-time observation (you can actually observe part or all of the phenomena).  A documentary will effectively and creatively use available technology and will have: 
  + 1. ***A******Theme and Message:***

**-Theme and Message:**  A Theme begins as a question, premise or assumption that unites the group’s I-Cans with observable and measurable phenomena. The Message is the clear and concise portrayal of the group’s organization, interpretation and analysis of the data.

* + 1. ***Purpose****:*

**- Purpose:**  A documentary is***information******on a mission***.  Its primary goal or purpose is to inform in an engaging way while addressing the Thematic question(s).  Other objectives can be to provoke dialogue and community or political action.  Documentaries should persuade individuals to change behavior in a way that is beneficial to society.

* + 1. ***Emotional Impact:***

**-Emotional Impact**:  This can be achieved by employing Humor, Music, Mystery or Guilt.  However, group members must NOT lose sight of their documentary’s theme and purpose, to inform.

* + 1. ***Movement and Flow:***

**-Movement and Flow:** Every sound and image should be designed to move the audience to and through the theme and sub-themes following the bridges and connections outlined on your storyboard.   The sequencing and coordination of media is deliberate, not random.

* + 1. **A *Target Audience*:**

**-Audience:** An effective documentary is targeted to a specific audience.  The audience for this project ranges from 15 years of age (high school) through adult**.  Do not question the intelligence or taste of your audience by creating a stupid, tasteless product.**

* + 1. **Technology:**

**-Technology**: Digital movie camera with appropriate audio recording capabilities. Computer capable of saving video into QuickTime Movie format.

1. **Process or Steps:  Assignments**

*Individual and Group Research, Interviews and Field Observation will be essential elements of a successful VDP.*

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| **Pre-Production Assignments –** *Must be complete before filming* | | |
| ✔ | **Assignment Title** | **Assignment Description** |
|  | **Group Request Form** | Explain why you chose your group, skills and resources available. |
|  | **-Preview and Critique Documentaries:** | View and critique various video documentaries such as those found on [Frontline](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/view/) and [FactualTV](http://www.factualtv.com/public-nodeco/main.action).  Identify characteristics of and techniques used in quality documentaries. |
|  | **Brainstorming 1** | An open dialogue where ideas, questions and possible themes and I-CAN’s are considered connected, spun, and reconnected until a viable theme emerges. – **Write 15-20 Theme Ideas** |
|  | **Topic Approval Form** | Explain your VDP Theme and sub-themes and get teacher approval.  **-Choosing a Documentary Topic Form & What makes a good Documentary Movie** |
|  | **-Brainstorming:** **-Roles and Jobs-** | **TO BE SUBMITTED:** Determine which members of your group will do what if you have not done so already.  Who will be the narrator?  Who will write the script?  Who will be the video editor? |
|  | **Research & Organization** | Use the worksheet – to help organize ideas and research |
|  | **-Storyboard/Planning-** | **TO BE SUBMITTED:** The Theme is transformed into a Message by organizing and sequencing.  Data and media are plotted out in a logical sequence.  The Storyboard becomes the outline for the Script. **–Story Boards completed and Turned in.** |
|  | **Brainstorming 2: Documentary Treatment** | What techniques and strategies will you use to transform your storyboard into a professional production?  **-Complete Writing a Documentary Treatment** |
|  | **-Creating Samples and Script-** | **The script will be SUBMITTED:** Make movie clips and soundtracks and begin piecing them together. |
|  | **Interview Questions** | Create a list of interview Questions –  **Use Documentary Interview Subjects and Questions Form** |
|  | | |
| **– Production Assignments –** | | |
|  | **-Documentary Shot List** | Fill out Documentary Shot List Worksheet |
|  | -**Create a Trailer-** | **TO BE SUBMITTED:** Make a commercial-like preview or teaser about your documentary that will create interest in it.  This should not be longer than sixty (60) seconds in length. You should not have to shoot any special clips for this. Use clips you intend on including in the finished product. |
|  | **-Brainstorming: 3** | Do we have enough clips?  Do we need more sounds, images?  What is the best order for the clips? |
|  | **-Trial/Prototype**: | The “FIRST DRAFT” is completed.  Show it to parents, other students and have them evaluate your project using the ***VDP Scoring Rubric***, which **WILL BE SUBMITTED.** |
|  | **-Brainstorming**: 4 | What needs to be changed to make the Message more clear and effective?  “Have we targeted the right audience?”  “Is this our Final Script?” |
|  | **Subject Release Form** | MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SUBJECT RELEASE FORM FILLED OUT FOR EACH PERSON REPRESENTED IN YOU DOCUMENTARYS |
|  | | |
| **Post-Production Assignments –** *Review before turning in final film* | | |
|  | **-Editing-Labeling**: | Make necessary adjustments and changes. |
|  | **-Brainstorming: 5** | Is this what we want?  Does it work? |
|  | **-Final Editing**: | Final changes for final product. |

**Deadlines:**

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| **Assignment** | **Due Date** | **Date Turned in** |
| **Group Request Form** |  |  |
| **Theme Approval Form** |  |  |
| **Pre-Production 1: Research & Interview Questions** |  |  |
| **Pre-Production 2: Documentary Treatment & Storyboard** |  |  |
| **Production/Post Production 1: Rough Cut & Trailer/PSA *uploaded to Google Drive & QR Code created*** |  |  |
| **Poster/ Marque completed with QR Code attached** |  |  |
| **Final Documentary Completed and uploaded to Glassford** |  |  |

Notes:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ History Teacher/Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Science Teacher/Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignments Checklist**

*You are responsible for turning in completed assignments on the deadlines. This paper get’s turned in to both your science and social studies teachers on requested deadlines. That means you are responsible for picking this up from the graded basket.*

**VDP Team Leader**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ History Teacher/Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Assignment** | **Details of your completed assignment** | **Date Turned in** |
| **Group Request Form** | *Group Members names: Social Studies & Science teachers and class periods:* |  |
| **Theme Approval Form & Choosing a Documentary Topic** | *What is your documentary theme? Summarize & describe what your documentary will be about.* |  |
| **Pre-Production 1: Research & Interview Questions** | *List and describe your research: What are your main sources? Who will you interview? Why did you choose the interviewee?* |  |
| **Pre-Production 2: Documentary Treatment & Storyboard** | *Describe and summarize your documentary? What is the purpose, themes, point of view three acts of your documentary?* |  |
| **Production/Post Production 1: Rough Cut & Trailer/PSA *uploaded to Google Drive & QR Code created*** | *What are some changes/edits you want to make to your documentary? Describe your trailer/PSA* |  |
| **Poster/ Marque completed with QR Code attached** | *Describe your poster/marque?* |  |
| **Final Documentary Completed and uploaded to Glassford** | *How do you think you did on your documentary? Did you get it turned in on time? Comments, concerns:* |  |