



Reel Fun
Film Festival



Darius Goes West Documentary Workshop Preparation

What is Documentary / Mockumentary Film Making?

So.... here is the official word from the good people at Wikipedia.....

The Documentary film is a broad category of visual expression that is based on the attempt, in one fashion or another, to "document" reality.

- courtesy of Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org)

The mockumentary is presented as a documentary recording real life, but is in fact fictional. It is a commonly used medium for parody and satire. They are often used to analyze current events and issues by using a fictional setting around it.

-courtesy of Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org)

Documentaries and mockumentaries give students the opportunity to express themselves using the tools of their generation. At the same time, they master basic skills — such as researching, reading, writing, and speaking. They also build critical 21st century skills including problem solving, collaboration, and gathering and analyzing data.

So What is this going to look like when we get the final product?

Each class will receive a final product of all the documentaries or mockumentaries on DVD. The films will be a combination of digital photos, internet images and video footage of interviews (kids will act out a specific person they think would be valid to interview, offering validity to their interactive presentation. The documentary will be made up of voice overs, music, sound effects and titles. The documentary will be approximately 4 minutes in length. Students will need to do some prep ahead of time (check out the next session to see what they will need to do...)

So what do I have to do to prep my students?

The good thing is, is that you don't have to do too much! Tweens and teens will do most of it on their own, including choosing a high impact, in your face topic to look at. You can use marks for report cards for LA, and technology as well as Science and Math depending on the topic.

So here is what we suggest you do...



1. In a large group introduce the statement.... "Life isn't fair. Why is it that bad things always happen to good people and where do people find the courage to overcome insurmountable obstacles?" Ask students their thoughts. The idea is to create critical thinking and critical expression.
2. In a large group, brainstorm different events, the good, the bad and the ugly... all ideas, from politics to sports to the environment are awesome.
3. Introduce the concept of documentary and mockumentary by reading the definition and asking them if any films or television shows they have seen relate to the definition.
4. In small groups (4-5 students) students will brainstorm a topic – controversy is good... most of the time! Once they have chosen their topic they need to see you (their teacher) for approval.
5. Students will then plan their documentary giving it a beginning, middle and end.
6. Students will need the opportunity to visit websites for information and images. The information will need to be used in conjunction with their pictures to help tell the story in a critical way. Students should download about 20 images to use before coming to the workshop and have their information ready to read. During the workshop students will take pictures and add a video segment. All this will be edited together to create their documentary.
7. Images will need to be either saved on a USB drive or on multiple USB drives – one per group- the images and folders will be downloaded to the computers on the day of the workshop.
8. Props and costumes for filming will need to be brought to the workshop.

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- See how an event comes to life by conducting an oral interview and performing internet based research
- Have a greater understanding of a different generation and / or culture / society
- Contribute to the community and and their social responsibility by recording and retelling a significant story and / or event
- Produce a professional-quality interactive show.
- Work collaboratively on a project that reaches students who learn in different ways and who have different talents.



Technology Skills

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Effectively use a digital still camera and / or video camera and its accessories to film an interview.
- Use a word-processing application to create a transcript and storyboard.
- Locate and save information and images from the Internet.
- Capture images using a scanner (if applicable).
- Import photos into photo editing and capture software
- Use various editing applications to integrate ideas and concepts into a digital image

Assessment Suggestions:

Evaluation of the student work can be divided into several areas:
quality of the interview (camera work and information gathered),
accuracy of transcription,
completion of the writing process,
quality of the story,
completion of the storyboard,
quality of editing,
overall effect,
teamwork,
self-assessment.