

Creating a Documentary

What is a documentary? A documentary is a broad term to describe a non-fiction movie that in some way "documents" or captures reality. Documentaries are often used to reveal an unusual, interesting or unknown angle. It is a genre of movie making that uses video & film scenes, photographs and/or sound of real people and real events which when edited together creates a particular story, viewpoint, message or experience.

Materials you will need:

Filming device

Computer

Editing Software

How to make a documentary:

Step 1: Pick a subject that excites you or that you are passionate about and decide on the story you want to tell.

Step 2: Research! Learn everything you can about your subject and explore all angles so you can convey the whole picture.

Step 3: Come up with a game plan. Think about HOW you are going to tell your story. What is the structure and style you will use? What are the core points you want people to pick up on?

Step 4: Create a list of the footage and interviews you will need to tell the story.

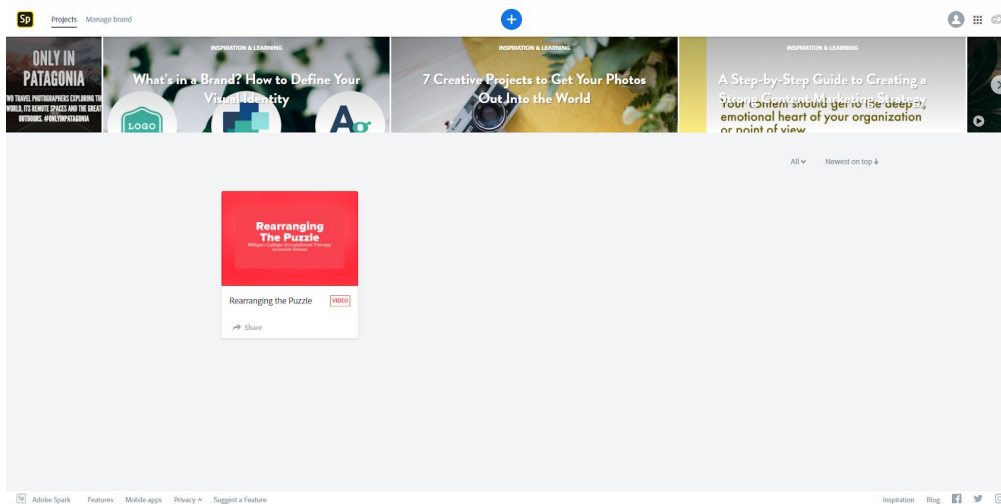
Step 5: Start shooting. Keep in mind how your documentary will be viewed and capture a variety of angles including close-ups, medium shots, and wide shots.

****periodically review the content you are getting to make sure you are on the right track. This might also spark a fresh idea and take the project in a different direction, but that is okay!**

I used: Canon EOS Rebel SL1 with a RODE microphone (any camera or phone will do!)

Step 6: Choose a video editing software and begin editing. There are a variety of options available depending on your budget, prior experience, and effects you want to put in your video.

I used: Adobe Creative Cloud Spark



I chose to use Adobe Creative Cloud because they have great affordable options for students and educators. Using their Spark app makes creating the video extremely easy. Once you have your footage you can just drag and drop it into the software and your story will develop right in front of you.

****you might repeat steps 5 and 6 multiple times to produce the story as you have imagined it in your head. Be patient, it takes time!**

Step 7: Distribute! Decide how you want to show your work and get it out there! The options are endless for example: YouTube, Facebook, websites, email, television, etc.

Resources and helpful links:

My video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5-6SgfpXCc&feature=youtu.be>

Using Adobe Spark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dDvYzmOtP8>

Creative Cloud cost (\$20/month):

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/plans.html>

Camera (Rebel SL1) (\$300):

https://www.amazon.com/Canon-Rebel-Digital-Camera-18-55mm/dp/B00IB1BTWI/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1525136297&sr=8-7&keywords=canon+rebel+sl1

Microphone (\$80):

https://www.amazon.com/Rode-VMGO-Lightweight-Microphone-Super-Cardioid/dp/B00GQDORA4/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1525136372&sr=1-3&keywords=rode+microphone

Tripod (\$50):

https://www.amazon.com/GorillaPod-Flexible-Ballhead-Mirrorless-Cameras/dp/B002FGTWOC/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1525136421&sr=1-3&keywords=gorillapod