

## **NONFICTION PROJECT: DOCUMENTARY TREATMENT & SCRIPT**

### **PURPOSE:**

The student will learn how to: Apply three-act structure to a documentary or news magazine narrative; learn how to create a two-column script; and learn the principles of documentary from concept and research to treatment, script and the screen.

### **PROCESS:**

For this project, students should first find a NON-FICTION (i.e. reported and based on verifiable facts/testimony) article from a well known newspaper, magazine, Web site, etc.

The next step is to research this subject in greater detail and find the central storyline. Build it into a proposed 10-15 minute program.

This project requires THREE documents:

- 1) A 3-PAGE MINIMUM TREATMENT that MUST:
  - begins with a LOGLINE (1 sentence ) and
  - includes a short SYNOPSIS of the program (1 paragraph) that identifies project's objective, theme, style, POV, access to sources, audience,
  - includes a PROSE TREATMENT of the presentation (2.5 pages minimum) that tells a non-fiction story with a beginning, middle and end, giving a blow-by-blow account of what we see and hear
  - has a clear "arc"
  - reflects significant research into the subject (mostly done by article's author)
  
- 2) A TWO-COLUMN A/V SCRIPT based on the treatment above (2-page minimum). It MUST:
  - tell the first few minutes of the Treatment's story in such a way that a reader can "see" how the presentation will play out on a screen using detailed video/audio elements
  - imaginatively present:
    - primary sources (film of actual events/news footage/interviews/written accounts, etc.)
    - secondary sources (re-enactments/fictionalized portrayals/recountings/graphs, etc.)
    - illustrative elements (stock footage/representations/sound effects/other b-roll)
  - use proper two-column format (video - left/audio - right) and be typed or printed and use 12 point Times Roman or Courier New
  
- 3) A PDF of the ORIGINAL ARTICLE on which your project is based.