



Class Title: Red Reel World: Create a Documentary

Teacher Name: Samantha Procopio

Class Day: Monday

Class Size: 18

Class Cost: \$55

Class Fee: \$96

Ages or color group served: Red

What level is this class: Level 3

Prerequisites: Students should have access to and be comfortable using a smartphone or tablet to record video and audio.

Be comfortable speaking with others - think interview style.

Have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone for editing

Graduation Requirements: Students must complete and present an original short documentary film demonstrating understanding of storytelling, production, and editing.

Homework Requirements: Students will need to complete interviews outside of class. They will be required to finish any compiling, videoing and editing not finished in class.

Class Description:

In this project-based class, students will step into the world of filmmaking and storytelling. Working individually or in small teams, they'll plan, film, and edit a short documentary focused on a real-world theme like community, environment, or personal stories. The semester wraps up with a student-led film festival where everyone's work is showcased and celebrated.

Week 1:

Welcome to Filmmaking:

We'll start by exploring what makes a great documentary, watching a few clips for inspiration, and brainstorming story ideas that matter to each student.

Week 2:

Finding Your Story

Students will choose a topic and start shaping their concept, learning how to find a story worth telling and how to keep it focused and meaningful.

Week 3:

Planning & Pre-Production

We'll cover how to organize a shoot, write interview questions, and map out scenes using a simple storyboard to plan the flow of their film.

Week 4:

The Art of the Interview

Students will practice interviewing skills—how to ask good questions, listen deeply, and make their subject feel comfortable on camera.

Week 5:

Lights, Camera, Action

This week is all about filming basics: framing, lighting, and sound. We'll shoot practice footage to get comfortable behind the camera.

Week 6:

Capturing Real Moments

Students will head out to film their interviews and gather b-roll (extra footage that helps tell the story). We'll discuss tips for staying flexible and capturing authentic moments.

Week 7:

Editing Basics

We'll move into the editing process, learning how to organize clips, trim footage, and build a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Week 8:

Adding Voice & Music

Students will add narration, titles, and music to bring emotion and polish to their stories while keeping it authentic and balanced.

Week 9:

Rough Cut Screening

We'll watch everyone's rough cuts together, give peer feedback, and talk about pacing, clarity, and what's working well.

Week 10:

Final Touches

This week is for polishing — fixing sound levels, adding transitions, and putting finishing details on their projects.

Week 11:

Posters & Promos

Students will design a digital poster or mini trailer to promote their documentary for our end-of-semester showcase.

Week 12:

Film Festival Week!

We'll celebrate with a student film festival — complete with popcorn, a red carpet, and student-led introductions for each documentary.