

4 ELEMENTS

MINI DOCUMENTARY

4TH YR BCS MEDIA PROJECT

A mini documentary/show made up of four chapters,
produced and broadcast *by* students *for* students.

LESSON 1 - LEARNING INTENTIONS:

- To understand the purpose of documentary and to gain a new perspective and appreciation of the art of filming.
- To critically observe a sample documentary/film segments and identify the concept, key themes and effectiveness of the work.
- To collaboratively engage with the theme and link the 4 elements with a proposed subject through mind-mapping and discussion.
- To discuss, research and plan our own mini documentary/show based around our 4 elements theme.

THEME:

4 Elements

1) Mind

2) Body

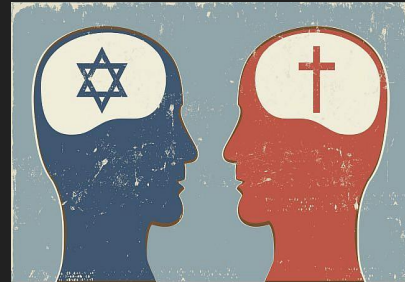
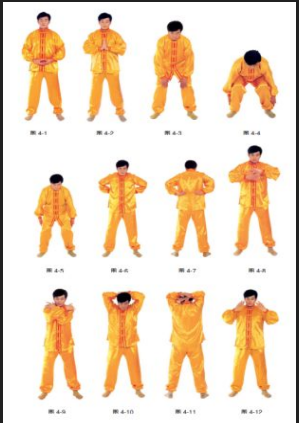
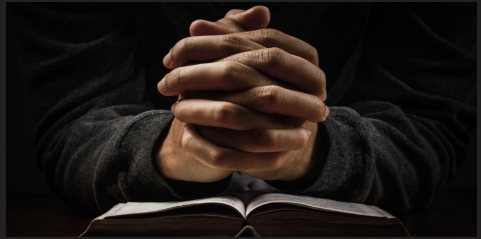
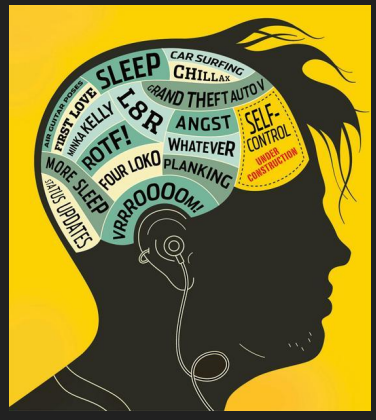
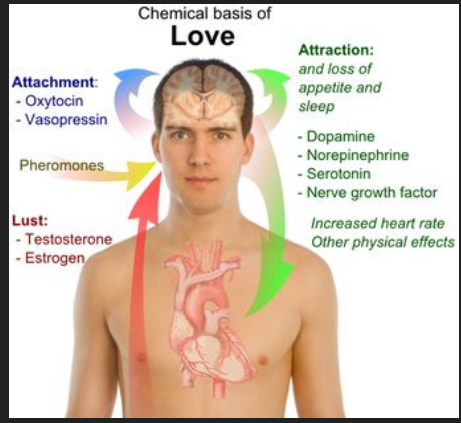
3) Heart

4) Spirit

**CONTENT
SHOULD TOUCH
ALL 4 STRANDS**

DISCUSS







CLASS TASK 2: *Outstr8 from Dublin's Northside*

What is the concept of this mini-doc?

Name some key themes that were touched on throughout the narrative.

Describe the effectiveness of the work in terms of:

- a) Visual
- b) Narrative
- c) Content



CLASS TASK 2: Noel Sweeney - *Stay Alive*

Describe the mood of this work based on the production (i.e.; visual, sound - scenery, sound levels, etc)

Reflect back on the work for a moment and with your group try to guesstimate how many scenes were included in the filming of this work. (To jog your memory - think: head and shoulder shot, close-up, wide shot, angles shot, seated, full length shot/standing, cutaways)

Critique this performer and critique the production...were they both matched and measured well. (Equal in quality? Imagine how you could have improved it...)

SHARE

GROUP TASK

Discuss, research and gather content to be used in a filmed format.

THINGS WE NEED TO HELP US BUILD CONTENT AROUND OUR THEME:

*A STORY

*SOCIAL/POLITICAL ISSUE

*GUEST FEATURES (PEOPLE/PERSONALITIES)

*PERFORMANCES

*INTERVIEWS

Remember...the following four areas of focus
should drive the tone of the mini
documentary/show:

Mind, Body, Heart, Spirit.

LESSON 1 - LEARNING INTENTIONS:

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- To critically observe a sample documentary/film segments and identify the concept, key themes and effectiveness of the work.
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HOMework

Consolidate research and ideas

Learn everything you can about your individual chosen documentary subject. Do a lot of digging and follow leads. This is where you put on your reporter hat. Gather facts and search for leads on interesting characters and story lines. Begin to build a structure on how the story could be told.

For homework you will need: your notes and task work from class, pen & paper(use colouring pencils in drawings) and internet.

Gather links, images, notes and ideas and bring them with you. Prepare yourself for next class where you will be presenting your findings.

DUE WEDNESDAY

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LESSON 2 - LEARNING INTENTIONS:

- To present findings from last week's homework.
- To engage in performance warm-ups(physical/vocal)
- To start to look at equipment used for filming and test some settings/surroundings based on the tone/mood of the proposed topic.
- To solidify the plan and begin to make a shot list, as well as carrying out administration and delegation of tasks.



GROUP TASK

VIDEO CHAT WITH KARL PARKINSON

- Useful information - a poem, a piece of work suitable
 - How this influences our next steps of planning

Letting the artist know the vital details surrounding our project; the following four areas of focus will drive the tone of the mini documentary/show:

Mind, Body, Heart, Spirit.

Make a Plan

Create an outline. Think about HOW you're going to tell your story. What's the structure? The style? Is there existing footage or photos that help tell your story or will everything need to be shot brand new? Who is your primary character(s)? What are your core story points? What are the elements of your story that are compelling and/or make you "tingle" with intrigue? How can you create that intrigue for your audience? Is there some existing situation you can film or do you need to create the moment?

Create a Shot List

This is a list of the footage and interviews you'll need to make your movie. Think of it as your list of "ingredients". Depending on the complexity of your project, you may or may not need to create a budget.

A word about interviews. You may be tempted to put a lot of people on your interview wish list. Again, there are no rules because each documentary has its own set of circumstances (maybe there's a reason to interview 100 people), but in general, it's hard for an audience to get to know more than 7-8 "characters" within one movie. So even if you interview 100 people, don't be surprised if you are only able to fit a fraction of them into your movie. Of course, there's always the Bonus Features section on your DVD.

TEST SHOOTING & CUTAWAYS LOCATION ON SITE

Start Shooting

Are you making documentaries for the web, mobile devices, television, theater? Maybe a combination? Keep in mind HOW your movie will be viewed because that can dictate your shooting and storytelling style. (Hint: tiny details off in the distance will not be seen on an iPhone). Make sure when you're shooting an event to capture a variety of angles including close-ups, medium shots and wide shots.

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LESSON 3 - LEARNING INTENTIONS:



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*INTERVIEWS

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Write a Script

Once all of the footage is shot and you've gathered the various production elements, time to start organizing it into a script. Pinpoint the most compelling elements of your story and start crafting "mini-scenes" around those events. Remember, a script isn't necessarily what's spoken or a voice-over. A script describes what the audience is seeing AND hearing.

PREMIERE PRO

Begin Editing

This is actually one of my favorite parts of the process. It's like putting together a great big puzzle! First you'll need to choose your video editing computer and video editing software. Once you're all set with equipment, you'll start putting down your clips of footage one right after the other in a sequence. The art with editing is to create a "roller coaster" ride of emotion, some parts fast, some part slow to create a dynamic viewing experience.

Check Legal and Copyright Issues

Even though this is near the end of the list, it should actually be something you keep in mind from the very beginning and throughout the ENTIRE filmmaking process. I cannot express enough the importance of this section. Please read through these few [simple legal guidelines](#) before starting on your project.

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LESSON 4 - LEARNING INTENTIONS:



PLATFORMS

Distribute!

Of course, now that you've done all the work making your documentary, you want people to see it, right? Never before have there been so many options for filmmakers to showcase their work. From theaters to television to DVD to the web, a new world of distribution is being invented right in front of our eyes. Making documentaries and showcasing your work is easier than ever.