

SHS and the City: A Documentary Film

Stevens High School

Click below to view the movie

SHS and the City

Grades: 11 and 12

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Project Description: Students will create a documentary film which answers an essential question. Project will include research, writing, oral history, and technology components.

Lesson Plan Outline

(schedule assumes a 90 minute period each day)

Week One:

- brainstorm ideas for research around essential question
- review interview skills and skills specific to filmed interviews
- compose 8-10 question interviews to practice with classmates
- generate list of information sources
- practice with cameras and microphones
- film practice interviews

Week Two:

- set up interview room lighting and backdrop
- practice interviews
- list possible interview subjects
- research areas identified in brainstorm week 1
- schedule interviews

Week Three:

- assign student teams to interviews (one student to film, one to ask questions)
- teams write interview questions
- review interview questions with teacher, edit
- begin filmed interviews

Week Four:

- conduct filmed interviews

Week Five:

- conduct filmed interviews

Week Six:

- choose 2 or more students to form narrative team
- narrative team reviews and takes notes/notes times on interview footage

Weeks 7-9:

- narrative team writes first draft of narrative
- narrative team identifies additional film or background information needed
- narrative team edits narrative
- narrative team practices with (film) editing software

Weeks 10-12:

- classmates obtain additional film, still pictures, and information for narrative team
- narrative team builds and edits film
- narrative team records narrative and finalizes film

Equipment List:

Camcorders (Canon ZR800)
Scanner (HP Scanjet G4010)
DVD Burner (Sony DRX840U 20x External Burner)
LCD Projector (InFocus IN26+ EP)
Digital Camera (Powershot A720)
External Hard Drive (Western Digital MyBook Home Edition 500 GB)
Firewire Ports (BLKF5U503V PCI Card)
Firewire Cables (Belkin)
Tripods (Slik U8000 Video/Photo Tripod)
External Microphones (Audio Technica ART355 Lavalier Mic)
Microsoft Movie Maker

NH Written and Oral Communication Standards:

W:EW:12:1.1 – Creating a clear and coherent, logically consistent structure

W:RC:12:2.3 – Using specific details and references to text or relevant citations to support thesis, interpretations, or conclusions.

W:RC:12:1.3 – Connecting what has been read (plot/ideas/concepts) to prior knowledge, other texts or the broader world of ideas, by referring to and explaining relevant ideas, themes motifs or archetypes.

W:OC:12:1.4 – Participating in large and small group discussions showing respect for individual ideas.

W:OC:12:1.5 – Reaching consensus to solve a problem, make a decision, or achieve a goal.

W:IW:12:3.2 – Including sufficient details or facts for appropriate depth of information: naming, describing, explaining, comparing, contrasting, or using visual images to support intended purpose.

W:IW:12:2.3 – Selecting and using formal, informal, literary, or technical language appropriate to audience and context.

W:IW:12:2.5 – Using precise and descriptive language that clarifies and supports intent and enhances meaning.

W:IW:12:1.2 – Selecting appropriate and relevant information (excluding extraneous details) to set context.

W:OC:10:2.6 – Using tools of technology to enhance message.

SHS and the City
Documentary Film Rubric

Student will:	Demonstrates little understanding	Shows initial understanding	Understands material and makes connections to the project	Understands material and generates unique and insightful connections to enhance the project
Conduct research relating to essential question				
Write interviews				
Use technology and software related to project				
Conduct and film interviews				
Write narrative				
Build and edit film				