



Documentary Category Summary

In the documentary category you will create a ten-minute film like the ones on PBS or the History Channel. Keep in mind:

- Make a storyboard of the types of images you want to use to explain your topic.
- Collect a large number of images to avoid too much repetition. You'll need about 100 images for a ten-minute documentary.
- Use appropriate music as an important addition to your recorded script.
- Write your script or narrative first and then add images.
- Make sure that the script fits with the image on the screen.
- Preview early and re-edit at least once.

Storyboards

A storyboard is a great tool that helps you combine the audio and visual elements of your project. It will also save you time when you go to create your final product.

You can make a storyboard form by creating a three-column table like the one shown on the right. Label the columns Notes, Visual, and Audio. Use the Visual and Audio columns to match your narrative with the images you intend to use to illustrate your points. Use the Notes column to add any information about the section that will help you during the production stage. Storyboards will save you time!

Media Storyboard Form		
Name: <u>U.S. Dakota War of 1862</u>		
Notes	Visual	Audio
Location Shot Long shot, no pan	 * Wood Lake Highway Sign	On September 23, 1862 the Battle of Wood Lake...
Insert still at the word "marked" No pan on still	 * Wood Lake Camp Illustration	...marked the end of organized warfare by the Dakota.
Location shot Camera pans right, following narrator	 * Wood Lake Camp Illustration	On September 26, 1862, the Dakota surrendered their captives at Camp Release, near present day Montevideo, Minnesota. When the killing had ended, the war left hundreds of Indians and whites dead and countless wounded. It was the beginning of the end for the culture of the Dakota, and there would be no more compromises.
Talking head Close up	 Professor Meyer	"The whites were certainly winners, because the Dakota were expelled from Minnesota, and only a rather small number of them were allowed to come back to Minnesota afterwards. Their lands were lost. Their annuities were taken from them. So they were definitely the losers in that war."



Video Presentations

The availability of home video cameras and easy-to-use digital video editing computer software, such as iMovie or Windows Movie Maker, has made the documentary category much easier. Here are some suggestions for video presentations:

- Remember: Students must operate the camera and the editing equipment.
- Stay organized. Draw up a storyboard of the scenes you will be shooting.
- Present a variety of panning shots, interviews, original footage, and still photographs.
- Appropriate music is an effective addition to your soundtrack, but remember that the music must match your presentation. Do not let it overshadow the verbal presentation.
- Watch professional documentaries for ideas.
- At events, be sure to test the available equipment so that your DVD or USB thumb-drive works correctly.
- If you are burning your documentary to a disc, make sure you burn the whole video, not just the file!