



## **What Do I Have to do to Finish My NHD Documentary?**

First things first, you need an Annotated Bibliography!

NHD Rule 19: An annotated bibliography is required for all categories. Your annotated bibliography must follow these requirements:

- List all sources that you consulted in developing your entry.
- Combine photos or other materials from the same collection into a single citation.
- Separate your bibliography into two sections: one for primary sources and one for secondary sources.
- Do not attach primary or secondary materials to your annotated bibliography.
- Do not include your annotated bibliography in the word count.

Each citation must include a brief annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to provide information about your research process, not to provide analysis to circumvent the word count. Each annotation must be no more than two or three sentences. The annotation should explain the following:

- How you used the source.
- How the source helped you to understand the topic.

NHD Rule 20: Citations and bibliographic references must follow the most recent edition of one of the two permitted style guides below. Regardless of which manual you use, the style must be consistent throughout all written material. You may utilize either:

1. *The Chicago Manual of Style* by the University of Chicago Press
2. *MLA Handbook* by the Modern Languages Association of America

NHD Rule 5: Plagiarizing all or part of your NHD project will result in disqualification. You must give credit to the primary and secondary sources you use and provide a complete citation and annotation for all of your sources in your annotated bibliography.

Visit <https://www.nhd.org//annotated-bibliography> for more information!



### A Few Important Rules to Keep in Mind...

NHD Documentary Category Rule C2: Your documentary may not exceed ten minutes in length.

NHD Documentary Category Rule C3: You may only announce the title of your documentary and your name(s) before the start of your documentary.

NHD Documentary Category Rule C5: All entries must be student-produced. You must operate all equipment. Only you may narrate the documentary. You may use professional photographs, film, recorded music, etc. in your documentary, provided you correctly cite your sources in the credits.

NHD Documentary Category Rule C6: At the end of the documentary, you should provide a general list of credits for all sources.

### Common Issues with Documentaries

- Music too loud
- Images too blurry
- Titles absent or unreadable
- Text on screen while speaking (unless subtitles)
- Images don't match script
- Too much flair!
- Using clip art or stock images



## Stepping Into a Rough Draft

1. Go through your notes, think about your topic. Look at your thesis statement. How are you going to show what happened and how it left an impact or change.
2. Write a tentative script and outline.
3. Locate visuals (photos/videos) to go with your script. Decide on location shots and interviews
4. Make sure you have the software you need. (iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, etc.) PowerPoint is not allowed.
5. Using your script, put the visuals together. Where there are gaps, fix them so that what you say matches what's on the screen. Remember, "say cow, see cow."
6. Record script.
7. Figure out other audio effects like music.
8. Check the NHD Contest Rulebook to make sure you have followed all the rules!

## How do I organize my documentary?

It needs to have a flow, that's for sure. While there are many different ways to go about telling the story of your thesis statement, here's the best way to go about it!

### Basic Script Outline:

- Title/Opening | 10 seconds
- Introduction/Thesis | 60 seconds
- Background/Build-up | 2:30 minutes
- Heart of the Topic | 2:40 minutes
- Short & Long Term Impacts | 2:30 minutes
- Conclusion | 60 seconds
- Credits | 10 seconds

Write your script and storyboard before the create the documentary!

Record narration first!

Make sure you have enough visuals.

Keep it simple... Say cow, see cow.



## What's a Storyboard?

A storyboard is a visual display of a script divided into segments, where each segment is represented by an appropriate image (slides, video clips, etc.) for that segment. This technique is used by people involved in media production to help them decide which pictures will best suit the script. It is important because it allows you to see which visuals fit best, which still need to be made, what songs need to be recorded, etc. You should create a storyboard *after* you have completed your research and written a script.

You can create a storyboard by using index cards or by drawing boxes on a piece of paper. Each card or box represents one image and the text or narration that goes with that image. You may also include background music or sounds that need to be recorded. You should rough sketch visual ideas on the upper portion of the card or box and place the part of the script that goes with that image on the lower part. Each segment should be numbered to make certain that it remains in proper sequence. You can attach the cards to a board or piece of paper to look at the entire flow of the presentation and determine what changes need to be made.

Narration/Audio	Visual (Sketch or describe)	Notes



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### Questions to ask yourself to improve your documentary...

- Can others hear your voice clearly?
- Do you use multiple transitions or special effects too much?
- Are all of your images historical?
- Do you use titles to separate the movie into sections, and are they readable?
- Use GOOD images and video, and give credits to where you got them.
- Do you have enough images to keep the visual pace interesting but not crazy?