

DUE DATES: Draft version is due February 15. Final version will be due two weeks later on March 1.

It is very important that the idea for a documentary that you are presenting be clear, well-argued, and manageable in scope. You are trying to convince people to help you obtain scarce and valuable resources [money, time, equipment, airtime] to produce your piece. A written proposal will both help you develop your understanding of “what your film is about,” and provide a valuable tool for helping you obtain the resources you need, as well as helping you organize your production process:

I. Things to Include in Your Proposal:

- A clear, simple statement of your subject and a title. NB: Not just a topic, but your take or angle on the topic.
- Background on your subject.
- Who and Where? List some possible locations, and some of your potential interview subjects.
- In a paragraph, describe a sequence a viewer might see in your completed piece.

ALSO IMPORTANT:

- Rationale. Why do a project about it? Why interesting or relevant?
- How your piece will differ from others on the subject?
- Why you? What is your personal interest in, commitment to the subject, value added?
- What audience do you hope to reach with this piece?
- Supporting materials - graphics, maps, newspaper articles.

II. Questions to Ask Yourself:

- Ethical issues. Who am I blaming? Exploiting?
- Will this be a project which will be appropriate for school-based production? Will other people be able to share the work, as well as your interest in the project?
- Is it doable? Will you be able to get access to the people and locations you need to?
- How many shooting days? How much editing?

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

You will present your proposal on the 2nd or 3rd week of class. This should be a professional presentation, made to other creative professionals. You may use slides, material you've shot, etc, to give the class a solid and succinct (under 10 min.) presentation that will give an overview of the project you're hoping to do. Be convincing. You will have another ten minutes for people to ask questions and offer suggestions.