

## Tips to Help You Make a Digital Documentary

- Choose a medium that will offer the most effective telling of the documentary's story. (PowerPoint, Keynote, iMovie, Final Cut Express).
- Create a folder on the desktop that will be your storage area for ALL information.
- Open a word processing document called "Sources". As you do your research paste URLs and other important citation information onto this document. Save it in the folder that you created.
- Go online and search for images, and / or audio for your movie. Save these into the folder. (*Note: If using Google Images, the small thumbnail image is NOT the real image.* ) Click on the thumbnail and go to the webpage that has that image. Click on SEE FULL SIZE IMAGE. CTRL/CLICK on the image. Drag to SAVE IMAGE AS and save image into your folder.
- To find appropriate music visit <http://www.freeplaymusic.com> to download clips of background music. The music clip will download to iTunes.
- Arrange graphic, video, and audio elements according to the sequence described in the storyboard.
- Carefully edit the length of clips and images. Think: "Once the clip tells its story, move on."
- Use on-screen titles sparingly. Let the video, and audio tell the story.
- Be fussy about what clips/images will stay in the final cut. If it helps to tell the story and is of good quality, it stays – otherwise, it goes.
- Be aware of the audience. Think about where the audience will look; what the audience will hear; what the audience will feel; what the audience will think.
- Add credits at the end to cite others' work.
- Keep a reasonable length. 3-6 minutes is sufficient for most documentary movies.
- Allow extra time for technological problems.
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