

TREATMENT ASSIGNMENT

Dates:

2/10/09 – Treatment assignment distributed

2/24/09 – At least two ideas must be approved by instructors

3/3/09 – Treatment due

Overview

Making a film requires a considerable amount of preparation and research. You need a strong vision and a detailed plan. This project will help you create both by requiring you to submit two ideas for your final documentary approved by Feb, 24 and then turn in an extended treatment of one of those ideas by Mar., 3. For your final project, you will be completing a film of at least 5 minutes in length that deals with a topic related to the Iraq War. The film must include at least one in-depth interview that draws on oral history techniques.

Part 1: Project Idea Approval

By now, you should have several leads on potential subjects and interviewees for your documentary. Once we have received your “local veterans” assignment, we will review your ideas and approve them before you begin. We may ask questions about your ideas, and will not approve them until you address our concerns. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure the viability of your project.

We will communicate by e-mail about your ideas and let you know of any questions we have. Please use e-mail, not Angel, for this process. Approval of project ideas will be made in writing.

Important: By 2/24 you must have had at least two project ideas approved by the instructors. Failure to do so will make your final project ineligible for an “A.” You cannot substitute a different topic without instructor approval.

Part 2: Treatment

A treatment is a detailed project proposal that outlines the vision and logistics for your film. As such, it must address a number of significant issues including, but not limited to:

1. What is your documentary about?
2. Why do you want to do it?
3. What themes might it address?
4. What story will be told? How?
5. Why would someone want to see it?
6. What will you focus on? Why?
7. What is your approach? Why?
8. Who will you interview? Why?
9. What kinds of questions will you ask?

10. What activities will you be taping and where will they happen?
11. Have you obtained---or what is your plan to obtain---the necessary access to tape the people, places and moments of your film?
12. What production problems or challenges do you need to address?
13. How will you shoot the film? How does this shooting style complement your subject, visuals and/or themes?
14. What shots might you use, and how will you shoot them?
15. What sound will you use?
16. Will you use music? What music and why?
17. Are there other visuals you might be able to use? Existing footage or photographs?

Your treatment must be at least 550 words.

A treatment is not a contract. You can change your mind. The circumstances might change. New ideas may come to you. The purpose is not to tie you down, but to help you think through your project now, so you don't run into problems later.