Student Resource 8.3

Shot List: Documentary Video

Student Names:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Once your assets are written down, go back through the list and highlight those that need to be shot on video. Combine all of the video assets to create your shot list. Visualize the footage you want and brainstorm the people, places, and things you’ll need to make it happen. Your shot list will determine your production needs, the amount of editing you’ll need to do, and your schedule.

Although a shot list is an important tool that will help you get the footage you need, remember that your shot list is not an exact recipe for a successful documentary. When you are in the field shooting, there may be opportunities and ideas for new shots that you did not think to put on the shot list. Often those are the best shots because they take advantage of the moment. Plan to get those shots, too, if they are appropriate for the story.

Shot List Example

Part of your shot list might look like this:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Shot # | Shot Description | Outline Ref | Principal on Camera | Props/ Extras | Video Notes | Audio Notes |
| 1 | Samantha in her neighborhood | II A, B | Samantha | n/a | Show street sign and other shots to establish neighborhood  Maybe show posters to establish student activism | Need lav mic |
| 2 | Degraded, depressing school premises (b-roll) | I B, C | No people | Things like broken desk, basketball hoop with net falling off, deserted hallways | Establishing shots that give the impression the school is abandoned, and no one cares | Music, then voices without faces to show that some people are fighting back against this abandonment |
| 3 | Mucy in the classroom at computer | II A, B | Mucy | Computer lab | Seat Mucy so there is natural lighting from window | Need lav mic |

Make sure your shot list meets or exceeds the following assessment criteria:

* All video assets required for the documentary are included in the shot list.
* The shot list includes a generous number of b-roll shots that can be used to enhance the look and feel of the project and to provide establishing shots and cutaways.
* The information about each shot provides a clear visual and audio image of what the shot will be.
* Notes provide detailed information about the images.
* All required people, places, and props are noted and described adequately.
* The shot list is neat and readable.

Use this table to list all of the shots you will need for your project.

| Shot # | Shot Description | Outline Ref | Principal on Camera | Props/ Extras | Video Notes | Audio Notes |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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