

## **NONFICTION PROJECT: DOCUMENTARY TREATMENT & SCRIPT**

**PURPOSE:** The student will learn how to: Apply three-act structure to a documentary or news magazine narrative; learn how to create a two-column script; and learn the principles of documentary from concept and research to treatment, script and the screen.

**PROCESS:** For this project, students should first find a NON-FICTION (i.e. reported and based on verifiable facts/testimony) article from a well known newspaper, magazine, Web site, etc. The next step is to research this subject in greater detail and find the central storyline. Build it into a proposed 15 minute program.

This project requires **THREE** documents:

- 1) A 3-PAGE MINIMUM TREATMENT that **MUST**:
  - begins with a **LOGLINE** (1 sentence ) and
  - includes a short **SYNOPSIS** of the program (1 paragraph) that identifies proejct's objective, theme, style, POV, access to sources, audience,
  - includes a prose treatment of the presentation that tells a non-fiction story with a beginning, middle and end, giving a blow-by-blow account of what we see and hear
  - have a clear "arc"
  - reflects significant research into the subject (mostly done by article's author)
  
- 2) A **TWO-COLUMN A/V SCRIPT** based on the treatment above (2-page minimum). It **MUST**:
  - use proper two-column format (video - left/audio - right)
  - be typed or printed and use 12 point Times Roman or Courier New type
  - tell a story from the beginning, through the middle, to the end
  - Use imagination! What kinds of b-roll can you support interviews with?
  
- 3) A printout of the **ORIGINAL ARTICLE** on which your project is based.