

Filmmaking within History

Overview

Documentaries are produced to inform and educate its audiences on a specific subject in an interesting way. Present documentaries inform its audiences of things going on at that time in other areas of the world which they may be unaware of, these are powerful as they can call for action or support from the viewers. With this as the focus, the students can make their own documentaries about a historical epidemic or disaster as if they are there at the time, setting it as if present day.

Learning Aims

- To use stimuli to re-create a documentary.
- To research the historical event in depth to create a script
- Working as a team to bring all the elements of a documentary together.
- To learn some knowledge of how to use the camera and adjust sound.
- To research any language, costume or lifestyle differences of the chosen time compared to modern day.

Main Objective

Once the students have a basic understanding of the historical event chosen, they can start to plan their documentary, set as if they are there at the time. Watching example clips of documentaries will help to make note of the style and format. The use of archive footage will also help to make their documentaries more realistic with the use of language, props and costumes appropriate to the time. Students will need to research the facts and information that they wish to include in their documentary, this expands their knowledge on the subject and promotes individual learning.

Roles and jobs within those roles.

- *2x presenters* – to read script written to camera, will need to research facts and write a script.
- *1 interviewer* – to work with the interviewees to write questions for their interview
- *a number of interviewees* – works with the reporter, will need a story, for example, a victim of the disaster or a hero
- *Sound technician* – to wear headphones from the camera, checking everyone can be heard clearly.
- *Floor manager/producer* – lead role, they have final say when decisions can't be agreed on. They count everyone in when starting to film.
- *Camera operator* – to follow the floor manager's instruction and frame the shots appropriately.