Mini-Documentary

Objectives
1. Give you the opportunity to plan, shoot and edit a semi-scripted, non-fictional piece.
2. Increase your ability to plan, shoot and edit a video project.
3. Improve your technical skills of equipment operation.
4. Enhance your aesthetic skills of shooting and editing, particularly the use of B-roll.

Summary
Individually, or with a partner, you write a proposal for a short (approx. 5 min/ min. 3 min.) documentary or on some topic of interest to you or other CSUF students. You then shoot and edit the piece.

Guidelines for the assignment
1. Crew. As with the first project, you can work individually or with a partner with the proviso that each person does her/his fair share and works together in a positive manner. Each person must shoot at least one shot and perform at least one edit, however, even if those tasks are divided you are sharing your grade as well.
2. Length. Approx. 5 minutes. Minimum 3 minutes. Shorter is probably better. And easier to do.
3. Proposal. For the proposal, use the following example as a guide. The idea is to plan as much as possible, while still allowing some flexibility for your story to unfold. The proposal must include: header, objectives, audience, production plan, budget, schedule, treatment, and scripted interview questions. Type, Courier 12-point, double-space, one-inch margins, staple.
4. Audience. Consider who your viewers will be. Whoever you target, you need to be able to describe the demographics of this audience.
5. Idea. Think of people in the area who live unusual lives, a group that is worth noting, an object that is extraordinary, places that are interesting to visit, issues you would like to explore, or events that jump out and say, "Shoot me!" These can be on campus or in north Orange County. Think of this as a soft-news feature, a magazine piece, a Huel Howser-style interesting person or place (though shorter).
6. Multiple interviews. Be sure to get at least two interviews, more are better, to add balance, credibility, and interest to your story. And you might think of the those interviews as a way of doing your voice-over, letting the participants tell their own story.
7. B-roll. Be sure to shoot a variety of good B-roll for sequencing in postproduction.
8. Performance releases, copyright. Be sure to take performance releases when you shoot. Do not use any copyrighted video footage or music without permission. Use our music library, or have your own music recorded (the artist needs to sign a performance release). I want this to be something you could enter in the CSU contest or in other festivals.
9. Lower-thirds. Identify each interviewee with a keyed “lower-third” title. It is customary to do this the first time the person appears on screen, unless it is aesthetically better later. Choose a type font and color that contrast sharply against the background over which the letters are keyed.
10. Lighting. This might be a good assignment to practice lighting.
11. Audio. You are likely to want to use music and you may need ambient sound or even a few sound effect.
12. Credits. Ending credits are required, but if you choose to use them they count as part of the programs running time.
13. Submission. Follow the guidelines on the “Videotape Protocol” sheet when you submit your project, including a proper leader sequence, slide over the record tab so I don’t accidentally erase your project, and correctly cued.

This project is due on the date listed in the class syllabus.