



JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

MAKING BIG CHOICES (STYLE, CREW, AND EQUIPMENT)

WEEK 4
CHAPTER 4
GRADES 9-12

LENGTH: 60-90 MIN.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Determine the documentary style of their film
- Assign production roles within their crew
- Examine types of documentary filmmaking and assess available equipment to prepare for the filming process.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook (pgs 36–39, 40–48, 67–68, 73)
- Writing utensils
- Camera Equipment - ex. iPad, DSLR, etc.
- Sound Equipment - ex. Lavalier mic, boom mic, etc.
- Other Filming Equipment - ex. Tripod, SD card, Clapperboard etc.
- **Accompanying Slide Deck**

ADD'L RESOURCES & LINKS

[How To Shoot Better Video With Your Phone](#)

[Smartphone Filmmaking: Documentary Filming With Your Smartphone](#)

[The Exposure Triangle and White Balance](#)

[Suggested Camcorder Settings](#)

OVERVIEW

- What Type of Documentary Will You Make?
- Activity One: The Different Types of Documentary
- Who is Your Film Crew?
- Activity Two: Crew Positions

OPENING DISCUSSION

Workbook pg. 24-25

What kind of film will you make?

All films have a distinct style, based on how they are shot and edited. For the sake of discussion and planning, these documentary styles can be sorted into categories, including the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • <i>Expository</i> | • <i>Observational</i> |
| • <i>Participatory</i> | • <i>Performative</i> |
| • <i>Reflexive</i> | • <i>Poetic</i> |

ACTIVITY ONE:

The Different Types of Documentary

Workbook pg. 36-38

Divide into 6 groups, each assigned to a different type of documentary. Use the following [link](#) to watch the films that exemplify your assigned styles. Share with the class what you noticed about the type of style of documentary you watched

HERO PRO TIP

Take a moment to review the Equipment you have available, refer to pages 40-48, 67-68, and 73 for added resources and tips.

- *Finding a video that demonstrates the equipment you are using*
- *Inviting a guest speaker (in-person or virtually) to demonstrate how to use your equipment*



WHO IS YOUR FILM CREW?

Workbook pg. 39

There are many jobs on a film set including:

Director

The person in charge of the creative vision and supervises the planning, filming, and editing of the film

Producer

The person in charge of managing the production and crew

Camera Operator

The person in charge of lighting, camera, and filming

Sound Recordist

The person who ensures the sound quality during recording

Editor

The person takes the raw footage and assembles it into the final version of the film

ACTIVITY TWO: CREW POSITIONS

Divide out positions. In Week Five, we will introduce the Assistant Director (AD) role. We recommend giving that role to the producer or editor, who might not have a specific task on filming day

CREW MEETING

Within your crew discuss what style of documentary you want to make. After each person has had a chance to voice their opinion, the director will make the final decision. Keep in mind that your film doesn't have to commit to one of these documentary types. Like all art, your film can blur boundaries and fit into more than one of the above categories.