



**Behind The Lens: Student Portrayals of a Troubled World**

**Lesson: Documentary Filmmaking**

**Subject: Social Studies**

**Grade Level: Adaptable to Grades 7-12**

**Time for Lesson: Varies by class**

**Objective:**

Through pre-production, production, and post-production, students will research, write, text analyze, and produce a film that portrays their knowledge and understanding of certain historical events, human rights, and social justice concerns.

**Materials:**

Camera, Microphone/Audio Recorder, Editing Software, Lights, Film Slate, Internet/Books

**New Mexico Social Studies Core Standard:**

Adaptable to grade level and theme

**New Mexico Art Core Standard:**

Adaptable to grade level and theme

*\*Other New Mexico Education Core Standards may be applied.*

**Lesson Preparation:**

- Permissions for Participation-Parental
- Number of expected films-Individual or team presentations.
- Deadlines-adaptive to class
- Introduction to Material-Make sure students know at minimum the basic function of their gadgets/resources.

*\*Suggested Material: Cameras-digital, cellphone camera, tablet; Microphone/Audio-lapel mics, digital voice recorder, phone audio recording app; Editing Software-iMovie, Final Cut, Adobe Premiere, Movie Maker; Lights-Fluorescent, LED, Color, Nature; Film Slate-DIY or Buy; Internet/Books-adaptive to subject.*

**Lesson Procedure:**

- Pre-production:
  - Documentary style script-Using **story elements** and guided by a *who, what, when, where, and how*, students will write the **plot, theme, character, setting, mood, characterization, style, point of view, conflict, and symbolism** of their film.
  - Credit List-Names of crew members and their craft, film participants and their roll, locations, signed permissions, found footage resource
  - Schedule-dates for interviews, production, and edits
- Production:
  - Students begin recording their own or gathering found footage.
- Post-Production:
  - Editing-cuts, transitions, sound, audio, and music are all used together to complete an impactful documentary film
  - Movie Poster-screening location and date

**Evaluation:**

- Constructive criticism-encouraged from teachers, classmates, and peers.