

StudentCam Outline Guidelines

It's important to create an outline for your documentary before you begin filming. All of your research, each of your interviewees, and your C-SPAN video clips should fit somewhere within your outline. It's okay if you end up changing elements as you move through the process, but you should always have a structure in mind.

Use the outline below to map out the structure for your film.

Group Members: List all group members

Working Title: Keep a running list of possible titles for your film.

The Introduction: Below is a list of some of the components you should think about including in your introduction.

- Background information on your chosen issue.
- Explains why this is an important issue.
- Includes a clear and concise topic statement (thesis statement).
- Introduce your story.
- May include a hook, quote, anecdote, etc.

Main Points: What is the first main idea you plan to explore in your documentary? Begin to provide evidence to support your first main point. The following are different ways to support your argument using your research and interviews:

- Facts and evidence from research
- Statistics, charts, graphs
- Quotes
- Expert interviews and analysis
- C-SPAN clips

Main Points (continued): (repeat the above information, as necessary)

Opposing Viewpoint: Below is a list of some of the components you should think about when addressing the opposing viewpoints. Acknowledging the opposition shows that you have thought critically about your topic and makes your argument stronger. You can include counter arguments throughout your film or keep them all in one section.

- What are the MAIN opposing viewpoint(s) against your position?
- List each important opposing viewpoint(s) and where you found them (ie: research, interviews, C-SPAN clips).
- What is your answer/rebuttal to these opposing viewpoint(s)?

Conclusion: Below is a list of some of the components you should think about including in your conclusion.

- Restate your topic statement (thesis statement).
- Summarize your main points and opposing viewpoint(s).
- Call to action for viewers.
- Bring film to a logical end / final thoughts.
- Connect back to the StudentCam Prompt and describe your position.