

Final Project: “What I Learned” Documentary

Total Points: 300

For your final exam, you will create a documentary-style presentation that synthesizes what you have learned this semester. This project is an opportunity to reflect critically on course content, insights from *Suspended: Punishment, Violence, and the Failure of School Safety* by Charles Bell, and your own professional experiences.

Purpose

This final project allows you to:

- Demonstrate your understanding of discipline, behavior management, and equitable practices.
 - Connect research and theory to your professional field.
 - Explore creative ways of communicating your learning and professional voice.
 - Practice both professional presentation skills (documentary) and scholarly reflection (short written component).
-

Project Requirements

Part I – Documentary Presentation (60% = 180 points)

Your documentary should address the following:

1. **The impact of school discipline and punishment policies** (particularly those discussed in Bell’s *Suspended*).
2. **How these policies shape student behavior, school safety, and broader educational outcomes.**
3. **Practical strategies and interventions** you could apply in your own field to foster equitable, supportive learning environments.

Guidelines

- **Length:** 8–10 minutes (quality over quantity—depth of reflection matters more than time).
- **Formats accepted:** video documentary, narrated slideshow (PowerPoint/Prezi with voiceover), or podcast with integrated visuals.
- **Focus:** Content and reflection matter more than production polish. Simple formats (narrated slides, phone recordings, interview clips) are completely acceptable.
- **Sources:** Must reference course readings (including *Suspended*) and may include outside resources, interviews, or field-based examples.
- **Submission:** Upload final file or link in Brightspace.

Point Breakdown (180 points)

- Content Mastery – 60 pts
 - Critical Reflection – 50 pts
 - Use of Evidence – 40 pts
 - Creativity & Engagement – 20 pts
 - Technical Quality – 10 pts
-

Part II – Written Reflection (40% = 120 points)

In addition to your documentary, submit a short paper (2–3 pages) that includes:

- A summary of your documentary focus and why you chose that angle.
- At least 2–3 direct connections to course readings (APA citations required).
- One or more examples of professional application (how insights will shape your practice).
- Any next steps or lingering questions you want to explore beyond this course.

Point Breakdown (120 points)

- Clarity & Structure – 30 pts

- Integration of Sources – 40 pts
 - Professional Application – 30 pts
 - Critical Insight – 20 pts
-

Milestones

To support your success, this project will be developed in stages:

- **Proposal/Outline:** 1–2 page description of your project focus, format, and planned connections to course material.
 - **Storyboard/Draft Clip due:** 2–3 minute preview or storyboard for feedback.
 - **Peer Feedback Session:** Exchange draft clips/storyboards with classmates for constructive feedback.
 - **Final Documentary & Written Reflection due:** May 5, 2024 by 11:59pm.
-

How to Personalize Your Project

Think about how the themes of discipline, equity, and intervention show up in *your* professional world. For example, you might:

- **As a classroom teacher:** Connect discipline practices to your content area and student engagement.
 - **As a coach or mentor:** Explore how motivation, discipline, and mentorship in extracurriculars parallel school practices.
 - **As a future school leader:** Reflect on how policies you’ve observed affect school climate and equity.
 - **As a counselor or support staff member:** Analyze how relationships and wraparound supports influence student behavior.
 - **As a community advocate or researcher:** Examine how cultural responsiveness and partnerships shape school discipline outcomes.
-

Menu of Documentary Formats

You may choose one of the following formats (or combine them):

1. **Interview-Style Documentary** – Conversations with colleagues, mentors, or students (with permission).
 2. **Narrated Slideshow / Visual Essay** – Slides or visuals with recorded narration.
 3. **Case Study Focus** – A single student, class, or school example, analyzed through course frameworks.
 4. **Creative Storytelling** – A dramatization or narrative illustrating equity and discipline themes.
 5. **Policy & Practice Analysis** – Compare real-world discipline practices with research from *Suspended*.
 6. **Hybrid Style** – Mix any of the above.
-

Tips for Success

- Think *beyond a typical essay*—use visuals, stories, and voices to bring your analysis alive.
- Tie your documentary back to both theory and practice.
- Use the written reflection to clarify ideas you couldn’t fully expand in the video.
- Focus on insight and substance, not fancy editing.

Tips for a Phenomenal Documentary:

Storyboarding & Planning – Outline your key points first. A strong story arc keeps it engaging.	Mix Up Your Media – Incorporate interviews, classroom/coaching experiences, images, voiceovers, or case studies.
Clear Audio & Video – Ensure you record in a quiet space. Your message should be the focus!	Make It Personal – The best documentaries tell a compelling story. This is your chance to share your perspective.
Keep It Concise – Aim for depth, not just breadth—focus on the most impactful insights.	Tech Help? No Problem! – If you need assistance with editing tools (iMovie, Canva Video, PowerPoint recording, etc.), just let me know!

