**CONCEPT PAPER ON DOCUMENTARY FILM**

**SS113: THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

***Font Style: Times New Roman; Font Size:12; Single (1.0) Spacing; Paper Size: A4***

|  |
| --- |
| **TITLE:**  WRITE HERE THE WORKING TITLE FOR YOUR PROPOSED DOCUMENTARY FILM |
| **OVERVIEW:**  Provide a 1-2 paragraph summary of the proposed documentary film. This should include the main topic, key theme/s, and the overall purpose or goal of your film. |
| **RATIONALE:**  In 2-3 paragraphs, explain the significance and importance of this documentary. Why is this topic relevant and worth exploring? What issues or questions will it address? How will it contribute to protecting the locals from the negative effects of globalization? |
| **APPROACH AND TREATMENT:**  Describe the overall approach and style you plan to use for the documentary. Will it be a character-driven story, an investigative piece, a historical account, etc.? Discuss the filming techniques you envision. *\*See Annex 1 below for reference* |
| **KEY STORYLINES AND CHARACTERS:**  Outline the main storyline and key character/s you plan to feature. Provide a brief description of each central character and how their experiences, perspectives, and journey will drive the documentary forward. |
| **PRODUCTION DETAILS:**  Where do you plan to film? What resources and equipment you will utilize? Who are the individuals and agencies you need to coordinate with? |
| **CONCLUSION:**  End with a concise statement reiterating the overall purpose, significance, and anticipated impact of the documentary in 1-2 sentences. |
| **THE FILMMAKER(S):**  Enumerate the members and specify the individual roles and responsibilities of each member of the team. |

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***\*ANNEX 1***

***BASIC STYLES OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS***

1. ***Character-driven story:***

A character-driven documentary focuses primarily on the personal stories, experiences, and perspectives of its central subjects. The narrative arc is driven by the emotional journey and development of these key characters over time. The documentary aims to provide an intimate, humanistic portrayal that allows the audience to connect with the people featured.

1. ***Investigative piece:***

An investigative documentary takes on the role of in-depth inquiry and research into a particular issue, event, or mystery. It often involves uncovering new information, interviewing key witnesses/experts, and piecing together a complex narrative to shed light on something that is not widely known or understood. The goal is to uncover the truth through rigorous investigation.

1. ***Historical account:***

A historical documentary provides a detailed chronicle and analysis of significant past events, movements, or time periods. It draws upon archival footage, interviews with historians/eyewitnesses, and other primary sources to construct an authoritative narrative about important historical occurrences and their lasting impact. The aim is to educate the audience and deepen their understanding of the past.

***BASIC FILMING TECHNIQUES***

1. **Observational Filming**: This technique involves capturing events and subjects in a fly-on-the-wall style, with minimal intervention or interaction from the filmmaker. The goal is to unobtrusively document natural behavior and occurrences as they unfold.
2. **Interview Filming**: Interviews are a core component of most documentaries, allowing the filmmaker to capture first-hand accounts, perspectives, and expert insights from key subjects. Techniques include traditional sit-down interviews as well as more conversational, on-the-go interview styles.
3. **Cinéma Vérité**: Also known as "direct cinema," this style embraces a more participatory, immersive approach where the filmmaker actively engages with the subjects and situations being documented. It aims to create a sense of authenticity and spontaneity.
4. **Archival Footage**: Incorporating historical photographs, videos, and other archival materials can help establish context, provide visual references to the past, and strengthen the documentary's narrative.
5. **Narration**: Voice-over narration can be used to provide context, explain complex ideas, or guide the audience through the documentary's storyline. The narrator's tone and delivery can significantly shape the overall mood and perspective.
6. **Observational Camerawork**: Subtle, unobtrusive camerawork that follows the action, such as slow pans, steady zooms, and discreet framing, can create a sense of immersion and authenticity.