* **Quick & Dirty:**
* Sketch out your idea–build a model…cardboard, pen & ink, make it fast.
* Imagine someone using it. Leave it for a day or two. Look at it again.
* Are there holes? Flaws? Impossibilities? Surprises? Avenues to explore? POST TO BLOG
* **Need to Know: What’s your approach?**
* What do you need to know and how will you find out?
* What resources do you know of?
* Who should you talk to about it? What help do you need?
* In other words, start your Research Plan. POST TO BLOG

TO DO:

* Do an exhaustive search for every documentary/multi-media piece done on the CoG (esp. those on YouTube)
* Make a list of all people involved in these projects since the beginning of the CoG
* Write up comprehensive list of all work and suss out main themes of each work (e.g. CoG history, individual stories, news stories, Ricky, diff kinds of abuse
* Find out how many discuss/touch on the mental/psychological abuse of CoG
* Watch all media inventoried (count total number of hours)
* Make a list of all CoG documentation already used/referred to in various projects
* Catalogue my own personal documents (xfamily.org, google image covers, GNs, photos, family stories, sibling interviews, http://video.xfamily.org/)
* Make a list of friends to interview (Laurie, Lena, etc) and who can intro to more
* List all cult studies professors/professionals I’ve heard of/research new ones
* Call up/research Institute for Cultic Studies
* Find out who has funded/disseminated past cult materials done by SGAs
* Scrape info off movingon archives
* Timeline of who left CoG when/compare with personal timeline via xfamily.org
* Ask Dad and Aunts about being interviewed/helping with this project
* Bring in stories about P & K
* Find Serena and other adults lived with in Nepal, India, Sri-Lanka
* Get all old pix from mom/P
* Find all Victor Camp materials

**Working title:** After Effects: when kids leave cults

**Elevator statement (What is your first take on the proposal?):** This is a multi purpose short video project. It aims to shed light on this serious situation, to bear witness to the tragedies and to explain the difficulties/challenges inherent in surviving the Children of God cult.

**Brief description (briefly describe your thesis proposal):**

Thousands of children were born into the Children of God cult since its founding in 1969. They have escaped by the hundreds each year in the last decade. None have left unscathed, however. Without an education, usable work experience or family support, many suffer silently from the after effects of a life lived in the confines of the cult. They are utterly unprepared for life on the outside. As a result, mental illness is common. Suicides are often. Some simply cannot assimilate into the real world. This is a multi purpose project. It aims to shed light on this serious situation, to bear witness to the tragedies and to explain the difficulties/challenges inherent in surviving the cult.

**Why do this idea? (why did you pick this idea for your thesis?)**

The driving motivation behind this project is my relationship with my teenage daughter. Unlike me, she was not born and raised in a cult. She has had a normal childhood with every possible educational and extracurricular opportunity. I deliberately made this happen. I love her more than anything in the world and take my responsibility as her mom very seriously. Yet, she does not understand me, or what I went through to give her the life she has. I suffer psychologically to this day because of the abuse I endured at the hands of the cult until I was 20. Though I've never missed a therapy session since she was born, the residual effects of my upbringing are still overwhelming at times. My anger at the cult for what it did to me and to thousands of other victims and survivors is powerfully raw and something I am still working to understand and overcome. I don't want my daughter to grow up without understanding why I struggle like I do, or to misinterpret my journey towards healing. I want to tell my story for her. It is time.

**Research plan (see page 1)**

**What will you have done by Thesis week?**

Complete an exhaustive search for every documentary/multi-media piece done on the Children of God cult – CoG (esp. those on YouTube)

Make a list of all people involved in these projects since the beginning of the CoG

Write up comprehensive list of all work and suss out main themes of each work (e.g. CoG history, individual stories, news stories, Ricky, diff kinds of abuse

Find out how many documentaries & multimedia projects discuss/touch on the mental/psychological abuse of CoG