

Leonard & Yongxin

Aesthetic Plan & Treatment

02/20/2020

Medium

The best medium is a video that we can integrate into a website. Visually, there will be original images and videos of real scenes that constitute the main part of our documentary; images and videos provided by interviewers as supplement materials; statistical charts and animation to quantitatively stress the phenomenon; English subtitle involved. Auditorily, there will be original recorded voiceover, uncopyrighted soundtracks, both wild and online sound effects involved.

Shooting Format

- Digital video
- Length: approximately 5-8 minutes
- Aspect ratio? 16:9
- Frame rate? 30-60FPS (Newer video standards support 120, 240, or 300 frames per second, so frames can be evenly multiplied for common frame rates such as 24 FPS film and 30 FPS video, as well as 25 and 50 FPS video in the case of 300 FPS displays. These standards also support video that is natively in higher frame rates, and video with interpolated frames between its native frames. Some modern films are experimenting with frame rates higher than 24 FPS, such as 48 and 60 FPS.)
- Progressive or interlaced images? JPG-progressive; GIF, PNG-interlaced. Interlaced made for a better quality look to television broadcasts.
- We are shooting color images

Tone

- Mood: Serious, somber (is there a transition of mood?) – becomes more empowering by the end
- Feelings: Introspective, enlightened, empowered to act via empathy

Framing

- With the equipment available, we will be zooming in and out with the standard camera lens. Wide shots and middle shots for scenes, including campus, groups of students, departments, educational institutions, communities, social organizations, street views with LGBTQ elements; Close-ups of face for interviews; Middle shots and close-ups for interaction with interviewees; Close-ups for important signs and slogans; Close-ups for scenes of Internet searching.
- Staging of elements? Mainly flat space and some deep space. (Differences of flat, limited, deep, and ambiguous space: <https://www.slideshare.net/caffscho11/space0>)
- Will look into work with shape, line, or size of objects to create patterns of meaning.

Movement

- Locked on a tripod during interviews, handheld for walking and outdoor shots
- Use tripod for still, handheld for movement
- Potentially use effects

Lighting

- Lighting will go towards realism.
- Only existing light.
- Indoor lights for interviews, sunlight for outdoors. Darker when narrating the past and memories, brighter when narrating the present, if needed.

Motifs, Metaphors, and Transitions

- Metaphor scenes that symbolize the suffering and death of the youth, like the withering of flowers, a gloomy rainy day, darkening sky, a piece of paper going to burn out, and fallen leaves blown by wind? Views imitating the world of suicides, such as looking down from a tall building, a fast approaching train?
- Hallways and streets as transitions

Challenging Expectations

- Animation?
- Radio or television broadcasting fragments about LGBTQ+ youth suicide? Yes
- Close-ups of artworks that depict the emotions and lives of LGBTQ+ youth in the museum?
Yes

Sound Design

- Realist sound and will look into moments of subjective or authorial sound design.

Music

Hopefully all of the music will be diegetic

- Uncopyrighted background music to move the plot forward and evoke mood. Much of this music would be diegetic. Temporarily there is no musical motifs to create coherence and thematic underscore.

Ambience & Sound Effects

- Collect some wild sounds from high schools and colleges, like the school bell and the muffled voice of student groups, but not sure whether they will be used in the ultimate video. By combining the sounds with actual scenes, we take the audience back to school.
- Apply corresponding online sound effects to the views imitating the world of suicides and metaphor scenes, like the pitter-patter of rain, the blowing wind, and crash, and create a somber, serious tone which let audience feel upset about the death of LGBTQ+ youth.

Human Voice

- Voiceover will not be the main conveyer of information in the film but still appear in some scenes:
 - Prologue
 - Introduce the background of interviewees
 - To disclose an affective nature, MAY read quotes of literature or poets which express the mental suffering and torment of LGBTQ+ youth.

- On the other hand, interviewees' words will complete the main description in our documentary.

Central Question

- LGBTQ+ youths, especially 16-22 years old, have a highly disproportionate rate of suicide in the United States. As one of the primary social environments where youths spend their time, educational institutions such as high schools and colleges have a lot of influence over the mental health of their students. Therefore, they should be able to have significant power in addressing the suicide problem.
- Looking into New York as a case study, we hope to find out what should mental healthcare do in educational institutions to lower LGBTQ+ youth suicide in the United States?

Characters (literal people we're going to include)

Representatives from:

- Social organizations: Callen-Lorde, PFLAG, Hetrick Martin, Trevor Project (unlikely), The Center (unlikely)
- High schools: Harvey Milk High School, Stuyvesant, The Lab School, Bronx Science, Spence, Chapin, United Nations School
- Colleges: NYU, Columbia, CUNY, Rutgers
- Us

Scenes

- Interviews with school administrators, health center counselors, mental health experts, LGBTQ+ activists, etc.
- Establishing shots of all the locations
- Moving stably on the street
- Metaphor scenes
- Close-ups of leaflets, project boards, bulletin boards, posters related to LGBTQ+
- Title cards (note: we're going to change the title lol)
- MAY have Statistical charts
- MAY have animations

Structure

- Act I: Who's involved? What is our purpose?
 - Introduce the issue of LGBTQ+ youth suicide in the United States
 - Clarify that we're focusing on NYC as a case study
 - Introduce the subjects that we're talking to
 - Introduce narrative empathy for LGBTQ+ youth
- Act II: What's the narrative thrust?
 - Display national statistics, information, and research
 - Finding background information about the subjects, including the history of the organizations and the profile of interviewees
 - Us visiting schools and social organizations and gathering micro-level information
 - Establish empathy for LGBTQ+ youth
- Act III: Analysis
 - Interviews with the organizations/experts comparing all of these places
 - Draw a conclusion on how educational institutions should improve their resources and services
 - Widen the scope and apply to the nation since this is just a case study
 - Call to action
- Act IV: How to add affects?
 - Let statistics and facts speak
 - Actual scenes interlace with metaphor scenes and views imitating the world of suicides
 - Sorrowful soundtracks