Leonard & Yongxin
Aesthetic Plan

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 quantitively 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
- Aspect ratio? 16:9/2.35:1 (16:9 is the international standard format of HDTV, non-HD digital television and analog widescreen television PALplus. Many digital video cameras have the capability to record in 16:9 (= 42:32), and 16:9 is the only widescreen aspect ratio natively supported by the DVD standard… Anamorphic format is the cinematography technique of shooting a widescreen picture on standard 35 mm film or other visual recording media with a non-widescreen native aspect ratio. When projected, image have an approximated 2.35:1 or 2.39:1 (often rounded to 2.4:1) aspect ratio. "21:9 aspect ratio" is actually 64:27 (= 43:33), or approximately 2.37:1, and is a near both cinematic movie aspect ratios.)
- 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

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 of the 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?
- Close-ups of artworks that depict the emotions and lives of LGBTQ+ youth in the museum?

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 of the 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

No voice over from us

• Voiceover will not be the main conveyer of information in the film but still appear in some scenes: 1) Introduce the background of interviewees; 2) 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.