ELEMENTS OF A DOCUMENTARY FILM TREATMENT

**Working Title** – The name of your project.

**Genre** – Doc/Narrative/Music Video, etc.

**Duration** – How long is it?

**Target Audience** – identify your core audience using socioeconomic and psychographics and reference your research.

**Outline** - A detailed paragraph that encapsulates the beginning, middle and end of your story. What happens? How does the conflict unfold?

**Character breakdown** – Who are the main players in your film? Age, race gender and profession. Include the necessary backstory that influences the present.

**Aesthetic Elements**  
What do we see?
- Lighting
- Camera Movement
- Editing
- Setting
- People
- Poetic details

What do we hear?
- Audio Elements
- Narration
- Interviews
- Ambient Sound
- Soundtrack

**Rationale** – WHY you chose this idea: why is it important? What will make it good? What skills and techniques are you applying? What style is it? (Observational, Participatory, etc...) How is it different than other films on similar subjects?

**Research** – Cite specific research you’ve done that supports all of the above from pre-interviews, archival material and first hand experience. Don’t generalize!

**Your Team** - WHO is on your team? What do they bring to the table?
Resources and Logistics - what are you going to shoot on? What other equipment do you plan on using to execute all of the above? Where are you going to shoot? Are there any logistical issues? What are they?

Legal and Ethical Considerations – show in the above that you considered things such as how your presence will impact the environment in which you are shooting (the people, the place, the events and resources within that space) and that you have considered things like copyright.