

ZENITH

The Ultimate Freestyle Presentation

IDEA

Name: Stella Barretto

Zenith Project

How do you ignite your passion and elevate your skills and experiences to create your ultimate and most successful Freestyle project?

The purpose of the Senior Zenith Project is to ignite your passion and elevate your skills and experiences to create your ultimate and most successful Freestyle project!

*All of our 21st Century goals apply to this project; however, for this Zenith Project, a significant goal is for you to develop **Self Direction** – the ability to set goals related to learning, plan for the achievement of those goals, independently manage time and effort, and independently assess the quality of learning and any products that result from the learning experience.*

Zenith Project Description / Requirements:

1. What is your project? Why is this particular project a passion for you? Discuss the final media form as well as the content you envision.

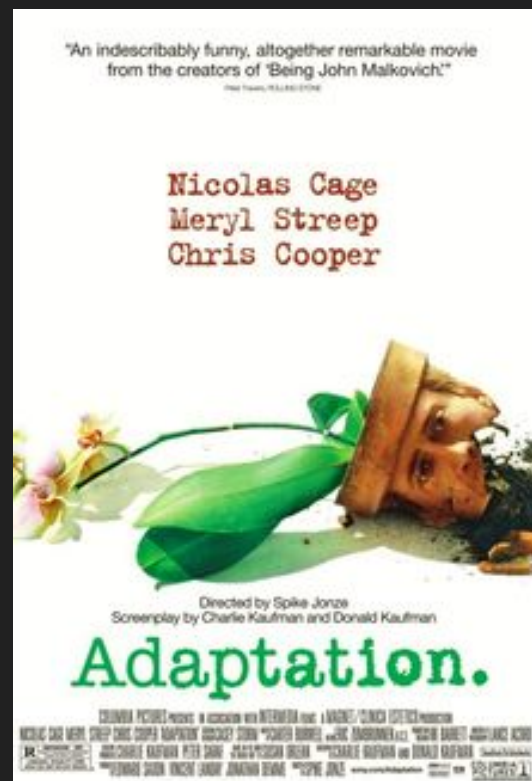
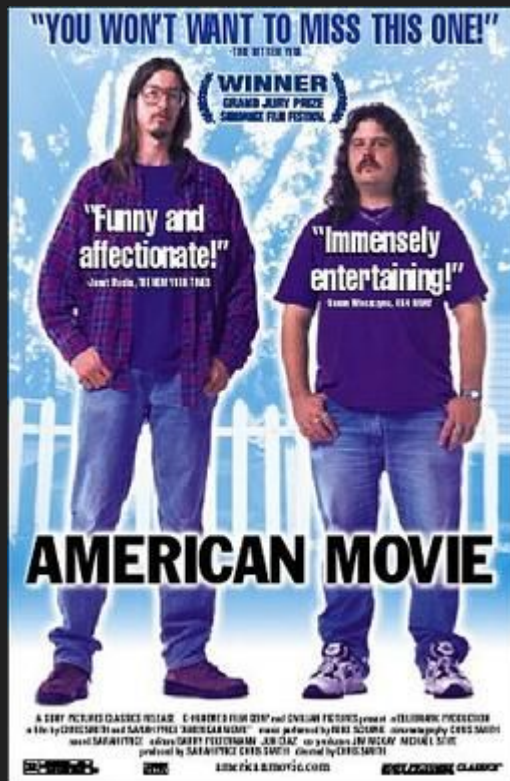
My Zenith Project is a documentary covering the Zenith process. It will be composed of interviews with Freestyle students in various stages of the Zenith. I also want it to be partially about my documentary (this documentary). Overall, I want the documentary to explore different ways students approach the Zenith project as well as how I'm approaching it (meta, right?). I am passionate about this because I really enjoyed the documentary unit last year but was unable to get the full experience due to Covid restrictions (I had no B-roll last year, my hope for this documentary is to have B-roll!). I'm also interested in further researching documentary types and finding model documentaries to watch/study. The final project will be a documentary hopefully showcasing different Freestyle Zenith projects (preferably one from each elective, possibly multiple from film) as well as my own Zenith process and information about the Zenith project.

2. How is this project a new challenge (a risk) for you? If you are in a group, define each of your roles and explain how each role will be a new challenge/risk for you. Also, how will you hold one another accountable for your roles? *Note: To encourage and reward you for your risk taking, your process will be worth more of your overall grade than the completed project.*

This Zenith project is a new challenge for me because its unconventional content will force me to be creative with how I arrange and put together the interviews and content. It will also force me to hold myself (and possibly other people!) accountable as the documentary will also capture my own process. It will also be a challenge for me to write a lot of interview questions for different people and actually film B-roll which I did not do for my last documentary project.

3. How will you incorporate your production class skills (new or existing) into your Project?

For my Production Class (Animation/Design/Film), I will film and conduct interviews using skills from the documentary unit (camera set-up, audio recording, etc.) It will require camera skills as well as editing techniques in post-production.





PRE-PRODUCTION

RESEARCH

Documentary Types (6)

1. Poetic
 - a. Mood, tone, juxtaposition of imagery
 - b. Little or no narrative content, nonlinear
 - c. "highly composed, visually striking images that can tell a story without additional verbal context"
 - d. Examples: Olympia (1938)
2. Expository
 - a. Sets up specific argument or point of view about a subject
 - b. Features voiceover
 - c. Footage supports and strengthens spoken argument of the film (stock footage, archival footage, b-roll, or re-enactments of historical events, etc.)
 - d. Examples: The Dust Bowl (2012)
3. Participatory
 - a. Defined by interaction between documentary filmmakers and their subject
 - b. Cinematographer captures interviewer and interviewee
 - c. Focuses on direct engagement with subjects and real emotional responses/interactions
 - d. Content supports filmmaker's point of view
 - e. Examples: Bowling for Columbine (2001)
4. Observational
 - a. "Cinema Verité" movement
 - b. Fly on the wall, aims to discover truth of subject—observation without interrupting
 - c. Examples: Primary (1960)
5. Reflexive
 - a. Focus on relationship between filmmaker and audience
 - b. Subject matter is often the process of documentary filmmaking itself, includes behind the scenes footage of the entire film production process (editing, interviewing, post-production, etc.)
 - c. Examples: Man With a Movie Camera (1929)
6. Performative
 - a. Focus on filmmakers involvement with their subject
 - b. Uses filmmakers personal relationship or personal experience with subject matter as jumping off point for exploring larger, subjective truths about the subject (politics, history, or groups of people, etc.)
 - c. Captures documentary production process as well as footage that illustrates direct and personal relationship between filmmaker and subject
 - d. Examples: Supersize Me (2004)

Documentary Notes: (styles, techniques, applications, etc.)

1. Bowling for Columbine
 - a. Opening scene follows filmmaker, followed by more personal stories/anecdotes on the topic. Satirical.



List by stella

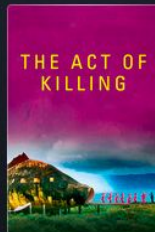
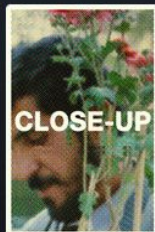
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DECADE ▾

GENRE ▾

SERVICE ▾

Sort by LIST ORDER ▾

**ZENITH Reflexive Documentaries** PRIVATE

9:23



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**documentaries to watch**

Bowling for Columbine



Chronicle of a Summer



Man with a Movie Camera



Close-Up



The Act of Killing



Stories we tell



Exit through the Gift Shop

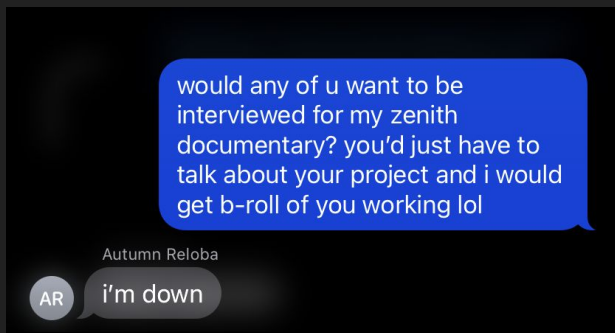


...No Lies

INTERVIEWS

ZENITH Interview Questions 1

1. Could you please state your name and your Freestyle elective?
2. How would you describe your Zenith project in one sentence?
3. Why did you pick this project/why are you passionate about it?
 - a. What part of your project are you most excited about?
4. How do you think your project is going?
 - a. What steps have you taken so far?
 - b. What are your next steps?
5. Have you run into any issues with your project so far?
6. Is there anything you're worried about moving forward?
7. Would you say you're on schedule?
 - a. How are you managing your time?
8. Have you heard about any other Zenith projects that you find interesting?
9. Is there anything you would change about the Zenith project as a whole?
10. Any other anecdotes about your Zenith project so far?



Letitia Popescu

From stellab@freestyleacademy.rocks

Zenith Interview

Hi Letitia!

Assuming you're still alright with being interviewed for my Zenith documentary, when would be a good time for an interview? Would some time after break work for you? The interview would take about a half hour. I could do during Freestyle, after school, or during break if that's better for you (either this weekend or monday/tuesday). Let me know what works for you.

Thank you so much!
Stella

Meri Sanders

From stellab@freestyleacademy.rocks

Zenith Interview

Hi Meri!

Thank you so much for agreeing to be interviewed for my Zenith documentary. In terms of date/time for an interview, would the beginning of next week or the following week work for you? The interview would take about a half hour. I could also do the interview during Freestyle if that works better for your schedule.

Thank you so much!
Stella

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interviewees

1. Letitia - animation student, animatic
2. Meri - design student, design with textiles
3. Autumn - film student, mockumentary-style screenplay
4. Carly - film student, fashion editorial commercial
5. Anjali - design student, fashion design and branding package

NEXT: make document with interview timetable/availability of interviewees + interview questions

PRODUCTION



SARA TWIGGS

FILM STUDENT, MOCKUMENTARY SCREENPLAY



AUTUMN RELOBA

FILM STUDENT, MOCKUMENTARY SCREENPLAY



MEGAN HALSEY

FILM STUDENT, MOCKUMENTARY SCREENPLAY



JACOB CHOI

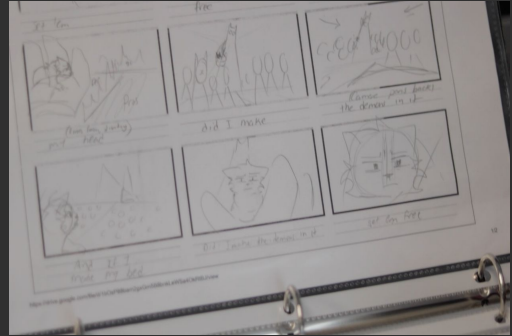
FILM STUDENT, INFOMERCIAL PARODY



MERI SANDERS

DESIGN STUDENT, TEXTILE ILLUSTRATIONS

B-ROLL



POST-PRODUCTION

EDITING



