

# Lowell Milken Center FOR *Unsung Heroes*



## Documentary Development Tips

### General documentary development tips:

1. Documentary should be under time limit
2. Start and end the doc featuring the unsung hero with thesis being presented
3. Must have credits thanking your sources, interviews and places you researched
4. Must have graphics that clearly explain the unsung hero, impact and change over time.
5. Keep it historical! Need to use: government documents, newspaper clippings, books, journals, articles, graphs, charts, maps, primary photographs, etc. – If it is between a graphic you made or a historical graphic always choose the historical graphic because it will support and validate your research and project.
6. Keep it simple. Do not use lots of fancy graphics, transitions, or colors. Viewers are more interested in the overall impact of the unsung hero and content.
7. Play music in the background that is related to the topic. Must be soft and not override the voice over's.

### Voice over's (VO's):

1. Write your script and then find pics to go along with the script. Do not write your script to go along with your pics.
2. Record all VO's before you start aligning pics.
3. Make sure all VO's are recorded in the same place at the same recording level. All VO's should flow together naturally.
4. Delete all clicking noise before and after each recorded VO. Leave space to delete them before and after you say the VO.
5. One person should record all of the VO's, or switch halfway through.
6. Choose the person with the best recording voice, not just the person that wants to do the VO's.

### Showing Photos:

1. Each photo should play for 3 to 5 seconds
2. Do not repeat photos more than twice in the film. This will show diversification of research.

### Gathering Photos:

1. Scan in photos
2. Download off of the internet
3. Take screen shots and crop for a photo
4. Scan in Newspapers, Magazine, Journal articles, charts, graphs, maps, government documents etc. to use as photos

### Interviews:

1. 2 to 3 live interviews
2. Zoom in and out
3. Very short sound bite – no more than 20 seconds at a time
4. Make sure the short clip supports the unsung hero or is very engaging