



Title
(15 sec.)

Creative Title of Your Documentary

Think about dividing up the ten minutes in your documentary into smaller sections, like a Tootsie Roll. The following organizer gives you an idea of how you can divide this time - make sure you talk about what happened before, during and after the main events of your topic.

Use the blank organizer to brainstorm the key information you want to include in each section. The times below are suggestions, not requirements. The time listed in each section is the final run time. It will include the words you are saying, as well as any audio clips or pauses for transitions.



Introduction & Thesis
(1 minute)

- General introduction to documentary
- Incorporate thesis and theme words
- Don't have to label as "thesis" or put on screen in text.
- Remember it's the road map to your project.

BEFORE
(2 min., 30 sec.)

Background

- Place your topic in historical context.
- What information do we need to know to understand your topic?
- What outside people, ideas, or events influenced your topic?

Build-up

- Who are the main players?
- What events lead up to the main event?

**Main Event/
Heart of the Story**
(2 min. 30 sec.)

- Major details about the main events in your topic
- Include specific details about the most critical people and events related to your topic.
- This section generally covers a smaller time period (several months to several years).

AFTER
(2 min. 30 sec.)

Short-Term Impact

- What are some of the immediate reactions to the main event, shortly after it happened?
- What changed? New laws? New ways of thinking?
- Who as affected by the event?

Long-Term Impact

- How was the world different after the main events of your topic?
- What is the long term significance?
- Were there intended/unintended consequences?
- Did it influence other historical events?

**Conclusion/
Wrap-Up**
(1 minute)

- Restate your thesis and theme connection.
- Focus on the main points you want your audience to take away.
- Why is this topic important in history?

End Titles & Source Credits
(15 sec.)

- Briefly list the main sources of audio and visual material
- Thank people, organizations and libraries who helped or contributed to your project



Audio Track 1: Student-read narration and oral history interviews



Audio Track 2: Historically appropriate music and sound (optional)

THE DOCUMENTARY



ROLL

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(15 sec.)

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Introduction & Thesis (1 minute)	BEFORE (2 min., 30 sec.) Background Build-Up	Main Event/ Heart of the Story (2 min. 30 sec.)	AFTER (2 min. 30 sec.) Short-Term Impact Long-Term Impact	Conclusion/ Wrap-Up (1 minute)	End Titles & Source Credits (15 sec.)	



Audio Track 1: Student-read narration and oral history interviews



Audio Track 2: Historically appropriate music and sound (optional)