

Documentary Storyboard Template

A storyboard will match up your written script with the visuals the viewer will see on the screen and the audio they will hear.

NOTES:




- **Length:** The average length of a script is about 5-7 pages double-spaced. Before beginning your storyboard, be sure to read your script out loud at a normal pace to make sure it is not too long.
- **Suggested Times:** The times listed below are suggestions based on the [Documentary Tootsie Roll](#). These times are only suggestions. These are suggested final run times, which will include not just the words you are saying, but also any other audio (interview clips, songs) and pauses for transitions. Your documentary can be no longer than 10 minutes.
- **Sections of your Documentary:** The sections below are not required, but can be a good place to start. You get to decide how you divide up your documentary. No matter how you divide up your documentary, make sure you talk about what happened before, during, and after the main events of your topic.
- **Photos:** Before you start using the storyboard template, you should have already collected a variety of visuals to be used in your documentary.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- The **Audio** column will show the words the viewer is hearing. Copy your script into the **Audio** column. Use a new row each time the visual on the screen changes. The Audio column will include both the words in your narration as well as a transcript of any audio clips you plan on including (speeches, songs, etc.)
- Your **visuals** may be static (photos, newspapers, etc.) or video footage. You can paste a copy of the image into the Visual column, include a link to the saved file, or write a text description of the visual. Be sure to include the file name so you can find it later!
- Use the **Notes** column to write down any reminders for yourself that you may need to create your documentary.

SAMPLE

The following partial storyboard is courtesy of Neil Grube, who participated in National History Day in 2017.

Notes	Visual	Audio
Zoom in on Wheeler's face.	 <p>Link to Google Doc</p>	[Me]: In 1902, Wayne Wheeler became the general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League. Wheeler coalesced multiple early temperance groups by inventing and using lobby group tactics.
Be sure to use a high-resolution version of this picture.	 <p>Link to Google Doc</p>	[Me]: United under Wheeler and wielding enormous power, they took a stand for the passage of an amendment prohibiting alcohol.
Pan across the headline so you can read it.	 <p>Link to Google Doc</p>	[Me]: As a result of their united power, the Prohibition amendment was ratified in 1919 and took effect in 1920

Introduction (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.

Notes	Visual	Audio

*Add more lines by right clicking in the table and selecting **Insert Row Below***

Background/Build-Up (2 minutes 30 seconds)

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

Notes	Visual	Audio

*Add more lines by right clicking in the table and selecting **Insert Row Below***

Main Event (2 minutes 30 seconds)

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).

Notes	Visual	Audio

Add more lines by right clicking in the table and selecting **Insert Row Below**

Short- and Long-Term Impact (2 minutes 30 seconds)

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

Notes	Visual	Audio

Add more lines by right clicking in the table and selecting **Insert Row Below**

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?

Notes	Visual	Audio

Add more lines by right clicking in the table and selecting **Insert Row Below**