

Concept:

My target audience for this participatory documentary is my family/whānau and other New Zealanders.

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Brainstorm: My ancestors are from Cambodia, which is a small part of Asia close to Thailand. I do not know a lot about my family's exact heritage but I know a lot about my mum's large immediate family. My mum comes from a large family with 4 brothers and 4 sisters; I love learning about my uncles and aunties lives and what they have accomplished and the passions my grandma and grandpa had. My mum has a heartwarming and sometimes sad story and I want to tell her stories in this documentary so other Khmer people and New Zealanders can hear. I plan to use a lot of archival photos of my mum and her siblings when they were younger and stories; an example of a story is my mother's family being split up during the Cambodian Genocide.

Pitch:**The purpose of your documentary (the message or the effect on the audience beyond the details)**

The purpose of my documentary is to give my mum's story and hardships from immigrating to New Zealand. My mum has unbelievable stories which led her to make the decision to move her entire family to a whole new country; a place which is unknown to her. I want my mum's selfless message of her giving her children a better life and better opportunities which hardly benefit her. I want my documentary to move the audience emotionally, let my friends and peers understand a new perspective. To feel a story they haven't felt before.

Why it would appeal to your target audience (your family and other New Zealanders).

It would appeal to my target audience because my family and other Kiwi's in two different ways. This documentary would specifically appeal to my family because I feel like we rarely talk about how it was moving to a country hundreds of thousands of miles away, I want to make them feel accomplished and proud of my family being first generation immigrants. I hope to share it with my family in Cambodia so they can see how far my mum has gone and how hard she has worked. My documentary would also appeal to other New Zealanders

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Who the main "talent" would be

My mother, XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX.

How you will structure the documentary - for example will it be

- Events that led to the cause of wanting to move from Cambodia to start a new life, some type of call to action.
- Why my mum wanted to be a New Zealander, why she chose New Zealand instead of Australia or America.
- Figuring out living situations, flying a 4 month old and 7 year old over (it being a more than 12 hour flight).
- The challenge of not speaking fluent English and having no family here. From this challenge, what they did to overcome it was taking English classes and meeting people from there.
- I want it to end with what my mums favourite parts of living here is and if she plans to move back to Cambodia.

The main information or events you would want to present

The main event I want to present is the guilt and worry my mum felt leaving Cambodia, as she was leaving her entire family to a country where she has no family. The events that led her to make the decision to move for a better life like how there are rarely good jobs to have in Cambodia, a low rate of police and ambulance service and medical care isn't a priority in Cambodia like how it is here. Main events like being on the plane, what our first house was, learning english and how she is now.

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5+ documentary conventions you wish to include:

1. archival footage/material
2. interviews (experts, family/friends)
3. external/internal conflict
4. music to affect mood/tone
5. Handheld shots

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Other content you plan to include

I plan to use recent images from when we last went to Cambodia in 2019, I want to use it near the end of the documentary to show that our family is still so close and that we visit them every 3-4 years.

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What camera/phone you plan to shoot on

I plan to shoot using our family camera, I don't know exactly which type it is but if I am not able to use it I plan to film it on my Iphone XR.

Where most of your filming would take place.

All my interview footage is planned to be filmed at home in our living room as I want the documentary to feel very relaxed and "homey".

Summarising the concept:

"XXXXXX's story" – XXXXXXXX XXXX realises Phnom Penh is not the city she wants to raise her children in, she prays for a better future for them. One with more opportunities, one with less violence and danger. After her traumatic experiences in Cambodia she sets her plan to move her two daughters with her husband to New Zealand.

Treatment: Make sure your treatment is suitable for your target audience.

Methods of research (eg internet, family records, interview, word of mouth):

5 My methods of research will be from word of mouth/interview meaning I will sit down with my Mum, XXXXXXXX to get background information for stories and facts that I will need in my documentary. I also plan to ask for family records of my mum's side of the family; like a family tree, Cambodian documentation and the documentation we got from when my whole family got our New Zealand citizenship. (whole family meaning my mum, my dad, my sister and I).

FIVE or more documentary conventions you plan to use.

- Archival footage/material

3 My mum's Facebook page is a treasure chest full of archival footage and images like highschool photos of her which have now been digitally uploaded and videos of my sister and I when we were children. I plan to use archival images of her and her family before she had kids and lots of footage of when we first moved to NZ like my sister and I playing in our first house in XXXXXXXX. I feel as using archival footage will be a good way to connect the viewers more into the conversations we have during the interview

2 and since my target audience is my family they can connect as they also watched me grow up through videos and images. 31/03 As the documentary might be shown at school, and needs to be suitable for a wider audience of New Zealander's, I'm going to avoid too many images of my sister and me as children and focus more on my Mum's family life.

- Interviews (experts, family/friends)

I chose interviews as my main form of content as I am interviewing my mum in Khmer so the target audience can understand more. There will also be subtitles so non khmer listeners can understand too. I felt the interview would be the smoother way to convey my mum's story as she can be more vulnerable and would make the documentary more genuine. 01/04 Mum switches between Khmer and English sometimes, so we will need to rehearse the interview so that it is fluent and understandable.

- External/internal conflict

My mum experienced a lot of external and internal conflict like the khmer genocide where hundreds of Cambodians were killed and the internal conflict of having to move from the only place you knew for 28 years to across the world where you don't even speak the language. I feel as if my target audience would be able to understand and relate in a way to the conflict my mum faced. 31/03 Mrs XXXX has pointed out that it might be hard to show this internal conflict. I'll use some specific shots to capture

7 Mum's expressions when she's talking about the genocide and moving, like close ups. This will mean I need to refilm some of the footage a few times to use different camera positions.

- Music to affect mood/tone

I wanted my tone of the documentary to be very "homey" so I have chosen music as a way to manipulate the tone so the audience can understand the vibe of the documentary more.

31/03 I'm not sure if I will use Cambodian music or NZ music or a mix.

- Handheld shots


There will be quite a few handheld shots and I felt this would be a great convention to use in my documentary as it would feel more like an at home documentary rather than a very serious documentary. The atmosphere will be made comfortable by the use of this convention as it makes it more homey.

Discussion of the narrative or storyline:

The narrative/storyline will begin with me introducing my mum as the greatest mother in the world, which is pretty generic but I'm doing this strategically as I want the audience to think this is somewhat of a cheesy mother daughter documentary when in reality it is the hardships of being a first generation immigrant. I plan to get mum to speak on her growing up in Cambodia, how she lived through the Khmer genocide which killed hundreds of Cambodians. What her goals and passions were in life. I want to give a lot of background information on why she chose to move to NZ and why she chose not to stay in Cambodia. She will then go on to talk about the immigration process, getting our citizenship and what she struggled with when she first arrived. I plan to end the documentary lighthearted with how she loves it now and tie back to the start about her family and talk about how she is still close with them now.

5/04 More research and I've realised I need to hook my audience better in the beginning and use something engaging to grab them. I think this might be talking about moving to NZ at the start and how hard it was.

A summary of what the viewer can expect to see, hear or learn about in each minute of the documentary:

Timing	Video	Audio
0-30s		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Montage of images of my mum - With only archival images and home videos of her alone or with my sister and I.
30-60s	"Homevideo of mum and [redacted] swinging on a swing" and "Clips of mum when she was younger around early 30's".	Mum will start to speak - this will be the first time we hear her voice. I will take audio from interviews for this part to put over the archival footage. I will ask her a question like "What were you like when you were younger?" or "What did you want to be when you were older".
60-90s	This is when we will first see the interview footage with mum. I will use a medium long shot or a medium close up during the entire interview.	This is when I will start to ask mum why she didn't want to stay in Cambodia. What events like marriage and children changed her mind on staying in Cambodia.

Locations:

Our home, areas like:

- Kitchen
- Living room
- The garden; front of house
- Karori Park
- Botanical gardens

[See test shots here](#)

9/04 the lighting is going to be a problem in our house, so I need to make sure we can get the lights from school in the holidays. The test shots aren't good.

Props:

- Archival photos of mum and her family
- A photo album
- Cup of tea
- Knife, vegetables for cutting vegetables for kitchen scene
- Chair

Cast & Crew:

- XXXXXX XXX - main talent.
- XXXX - me, director.

Equipment:

- Iphone
- Tripod
- Lamp for extra light / lights from school

Others include but will probably not be needed this time around:

- Hair/Makeup

Type of music and any audio considerations (voiceover, sound FX etc).

I plan to use traditional Khmer (Cambodian) music in the background faintly while the archival footage plays as it would appeal to my target audience being my whanau.

Music is a very important part of Khmer culture as many of our traditional dances are based around it and I feel as if it is very important to add into my documentary. It's an important convention as well that sets the tone and mood.

I'm going to do a short and brief voice over in the beginning of the documentary to capture the audience's attention. It will be me saying, "This is XXXXX, the best mum in the world."

20/04 this changed. I did record this, but didn't use it to start the documentary as it didn't sound right and when I asked some classmates about it, they thought it wasn't a good start to grab their attention.

Settings or locations.

I plan to film 95% of my footage at home, which is also the talents home as I would like the tone of my documentary to be homey and down to earth so it can be more emotionally capturing and I feel as my target audience would appreciate this more as they can focus more on my mum and her personal story than what's happening around her in the film.

I do also plan to add a few clips of her walking around the botanical gardens as it is one of her favourite places in Wellington and is a family favourite. I feel it would compliment the storyline and the tone of the documentary and appeal to my target audience as of course it is very pretty and very calming.

[Talent release forms done](#)

Potential Problem	Impact & Contingency Plan	Potential Prevention Methods
Phone battery runs out.	Not being able to film any new clips, having to cut off interviews and wasting talent's time while waiting for the phone to charge back up. - Prepare talent for what the question is so they have more time to think.	Have mum's phone as a spare camera. Making sure the phone is 100% charged by charging the phone overnight before shoot day /during breakfast. Carry a power bank. Plan to break halfway through the interview for a toilet/ tea time as I can charge my phone during this pre-planned time.
Talent cancels to shoot on a planned shoot day.	I am unable to film interview, causing me to have to wait a couple days to be able to shoot as talent has a tight schedule.	I can pre plan shoot days that are more suitable with talent. Make sure the talent

Interview questions:

What were you like when you were younger?

What did you want to be when you were older?

What didn't you like about Cambodia while growing up there?

~~What events like marriage and children changed her mind on staying in Cambodia?~~

When did she meet my dad?

How old were you when you got married? Where were you in your life when you got married? (meaning mentally and what she was doing for work and if she regrets getting married so young.

~~How many brothers and sisters did you have?~~

~~Were you all close?~~

What were your parents like? What did they do for a living?

Were you always with your family?

What do you miss most about your parents? And do they inspire you to be who you are to this day?

Why did she leave Cambodia?

What inspired her to move to New Zealand?

I didn't need to ask these questions as the answers were attached to other questions.

Owner or producer information for any music, still photos, archival footage or sound FX you plan to use.

Owner of archival footage: XXXXXX XX and XXXXXXXX XX/

Music: Khmer Traditional Music (Mohori) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUiztYyT1oE> - ong chheang youtube channel.

Production schedule:

10-12 May Doco design and plan due 5PM 12 May
3-14 may Start doco production; editing activities in class
Rough Cut due before 4 June (Teacher only day)
15 – 29 March Planning stage 1 Camera skills
1 april Checkpoint 1 on plan
9 April Checkpoint 2 on plan
12 – 16 April Test shots and some filming. Choose music and archival footage
20/21 April Film mum
14 – 28 may Editing doco in class
11 june Doco due Friday 11 June

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Style

Explain in detail the kind of atmosphere you will create and how you intend to use equipment and conventions to create this style. For example, in an action film trailer, rapid shot transitions will convey a tense atmosphere to the audience.

I am going for a calm and emotional atmosphere, not one which feels chaotic or scary, one that feels emotionally free and safe. I am going to use the conventions of archival footage and handheld shots to help create this style. I feel as they would help as in a few documentaries I have watched on peoples stories they have a lot of handheld shots to shake off the tense professional atmosphere and create a more down to earth one, mixing with the use of archival footage where you are able to see the person when they were much younger and think of the emotional toll they had or were about to go through.

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Some of the interview could be used as audio over the archival footage. I could extract the audio only from some of it and that helps crate the style I want, which is supportive and relational.

Provide a detailed explanation of the tone of your documentary, and how you intend to use equipment and conventions to create this. For example a voice-over in a documentary suggests an informed and serious tone to the film.

The tone of my documentary is very down to earth and "homey" in a way of feeling the energy of when you have finally settled into a new school or new home. Feeling more free and more safe, I have used one on one interviews in my documentary to suggest a less serious tone to my film but a more stable and down to earth tone. I have used the location being the talents actual living room to help suggest this tone as it is much more of a personal setting and a very vulnerable space.

Explain in detail why your stylistic approaches are appropriate for your brief and your target audience, including how it will appeal to them.

My stylistic approaches are very appropriate for my brief and target audience as it is barely going out of the box film wise and stuck to a very safe and casual tone and style. My documentary is to tell the story using the vulnerability of the talent sharing her story and the minimal different locations so the audience will not get distracted by anything else. I feel as though my stylistic approaches are very appealing to my target audience as the energy and tone of the documentary isn't something that is out of the ordinary but still is one where you feel a sense of warmth when you watch, one where your heart feels happy and you feel a sense of relief at the end. My target audience is mainly my family and friends back home as they don't know much about New Zealand and may not be as close with my mum anymore, so the tone of this documentary will allow them to understand, listen and relate which is what I aim for.

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My audience is also my classmates and other students at my school as the documentaries will be played at lunchtime. So I have made sure that the style will appeal to them by having traditional music to help them understand the culture and changed some of the questions.

Photo Board for any planned sequences/b roll:



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