



DOCUMENTARY



Summer Project:

"A Day in the Life" Mini-Documentary

This independent summer project challenges you to master the art of chronological storytelling. You need to produce a **3-minute "Day in the Life" mini-documentary** focusing on a single subject over a compressed timeframe.

The challenge here is pacing: capturing hours of a daily routine and distilling it into 180 seconds of engaging, fast-paced visual storytelling.

- **Duration:** Suggested 6 Weeks (Suggested breakdown: 2 weeks planning, 2 weeks production, 2 weeks post-production & evaluation)
- **Target Length:** Exactly 3 minutes (120 seconds).
- **Potential Subjects:** A family member with an interesting job/hobby, a local shopkeeper, or even a self-portrait documentary tracking your own creative routine.
- **Create:** A 3 minute mini-documentary and sketchbook detailing the creation of your documentary and any relevant paperwork.
- **Deadline:** August 17th 2026
- **Submission:** Email joshua.checkley@ieg.ac.uk with your finished piece.

Project Breakdown

Task 1: Planning & Pre-Production (Weeks 1-2)

A successful "Day in the Life" doc requires meticulous scheduling. You need to know exactly when and where key moments happen before you start rolling.

- **Subject Selection & Routine Logging**
 - Choose your subject and pitch the concept. (Why is their daily routine interesting to watch?)
 - Conduct a "pre-interview" chat to build a Daily Routine Log, an hour-by-hour breakdown of their typical day from waking up to going to sleep.
 - Identify the 4 or 5 "anchor moments" of their day that must be in the film to tell the story (e.g., making morning coffee, commuting, the peak of their activity, winding down).
 - Make sure you write about your processes, ideas and choices, explaining why you're doing things.
- **Visual Timeline & Shot Listing**



- Create a visual storyboard OR clear timeline mapped out chronologically: Morning → Afternoon → Night.
- Plan your audio strategy: Will the documentary use a voiceover narration, direct-to-camera interview snippets, or be completely driven by natural environmental sounds?
- Produce a shot list, suggesting the types of shots you might capture.

Task 2: Production (Weeks 3–4)

Because you are filming a daily routine, you will need to capture footage across different times of day. Consistency and adaptability are key.

- **Morning to Midday**
 - Capture the "morning routine" sequences. Focus on sensory details, the sound of an alarm, kettle boiling, shoes being tied.
 - Move into the midday sequences (the subject's main activity or work).
 - Write about your choices, what have you chosen to capture and why.
- **Creative Extras - Evening & Cutaways**
 - Capture the winding-down sequences (evening routine, reflecting on the day).
 - Gather extra "fill" footage, close-ups of objects that represent the person (clocks, tools, coffee cups).
 - Write about your choices, what have you chosen to capture and why.

Task 3: Post-Production & Evaluation (Weeks 5–6)

You can use whatever editing software and techniques you like, be creative and have fun putting together your documentary. Take screenshots of your process.

- **Chronological Editing & Sound Design**
 - Import your footage and arrange it chronologically.
 - Experiment with your cutting to keep the pace snappy.
 - Keep scenes short. On average, shots shouldn't last longer than 3 to 4 seconds to keep the momentum moving.
 - Mix your audio carefully. If using a voiceover, ensure it sits clearly above the background atmosphere.
 - Take screenshots and write about your editing process.
- **Colour Correction, Titles & Evaluation**
 - Use subtle colour grading to enhance the passage of time (e.g., warm, bright tones for morning; cooler, darker tones for evening).
 - Export the final 3-minute film.
 - Complete a **250 word evaluation** focusing on how successfully you managed the narrative pacing.

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Deliverables & Assessment Checklist

Phase	Deliverable Item	What Teachers Are Looking For
Pre-Production	Daily Routine Log & Shot List	Clear chronological plan; evidence of tracking important moments throughout a day.
Production	Raw Visual Assets	A distinct visual contrast between morning, afternoon, and night footage.
Post-Production	Final 3-Minute Film	Excellent pacing; effective use of time-compression techniques and clear audio.
Evaluation	Written or Audio Review	Critical reflection on the challenges of compressing a whole day into 3 minutes, and how problems were managed.