

Pre-Production Planning Document (MINI DOC)

GENERAL INFO

1. **Your Name:** Sean Keenan
2. **PROJECT:** Nerf War Mini Doc

CREATIVE BRIEF

1. **What must it be?**
A 1-5-minute documentary on a story of my choosing
2. **Who is it for?**
The professor, class, my blog
3. **How long must it be?**
1-5 Minutes
4. **What is your objective with the piece?**
To present a video about a nerf war going on in a house full of 8 college students
5. **When is it due?**
Pre-production document: Class 10
Shots for editing: Class 11
Rough Cut: Class 12
Final Cut: Class 13
6. **What is the overall idea?**
A funny and overdramatic look at a nerf war between 8 college students during a pandemic
7. **What is the storyline summary?**
As 8 college students have been stuck together in a house during the pandemic, tensions have begun to boil over, turning into an all-out war. In this mini-doc, I will record the happenings of the war itself, as well as Interview members of the house for their perspective.
8. **Elevator pitch**

What happens when tension's boil over in a house full of college students? Well, a nerf war obviously. Now with the war in full swing, this mini doc will help present an inside look, seeing through the many different perspectives of the residents.

9. Tagline

Gun enthusiasts take over Fort Dixwell

10. Look and feel description (including "pacing")

The pacing may vary. There will be some moments of people sneaking around and trying to remain unnoticed, which will be slower paced with shots/music to match. Vice versa, in scenarios where the B-roll is of a fight or the interviewee is a high intensity person, the pace will change to a faster one.

QUESTIONS / NOTES

SUBJECT:

1. Why did you choose this story?

I choose this story because I thought it was funny, as well it is opening up many ideas in my head that I'm excited to try and try out

2. Story ideas:

Have some residents be very invested, overdramatic attitude and a fake "war attire". Other residents will think it's dumb, distracting them from work and affecting their school status and relationship to the rest of the house. During the interviews or my narration, certain scenes like someone sneaking up on someone, or being angry at the number of bullets on the ground

NARRATION/HOST:

3. Who will lead us through the piece?

I will narrate the piece myself, with interviews taking up the rest of the talking

4. Narration ideas

Either just a normal reporting voice, acting like this is a real war, or maybe a slightly more overdramatic one with some dry humor thrown in

INTERVIEWS:

1. Who will you interview?

My goal is to interview one resident who's overly invested (subject 1), one who hates everything to do with it (subject 2), and one person who sees it as a great time to bond with friends (subject 3)

2. Why is this person important to the piece?

By having all these different perspectives, I feel it both brings the story extra layers to it. By seeing the clashing of all the different ideas, it also gives you a better feeling that there is a “war” going on

3. What questions will you ask?

Questions could include:

(To subject 1) Why are you so invested in this war?

(To subject 1) If you could kick one person out of the house, and subsequently the war itself, who would it be?

(To subject 2) What about this war makes you so annoyed with everyone?

(To subject 2) Do you think their actions over the past few weeks may affect future relationships?

(To subject 3) Compared to the rest of the house, you seem to be much calmer than most, why is that?

(To subject 3)

4. What follow-up questions might be important?

Depending on the answer, I’ll try to see if they mention things like other roommates or why they’re here, then try to expand upon that to get a better understanding of the dynamic between the participants.

B-Roll:

1. What b-roll visuals will be important to convey the story? Keep in mind you should show what the interviewees are talking about.

The most important B-Roll is going to be the action. Things like guns being fired, people sneaking around, ducking behind cover etc....

2. Any still images or charts or graphics?

Potential graphics could be muzzle flashes on the guns, as well as maybe smoke.

3. Is the nat sound of the environment important? If so, be sure to record it properly.

The nat sound may be important in picking up firing sounds and other noises the gun makes, but that can also be potentially added in post

4. B-roll ideas:

People sneak around

Person getting shot by gatling gun

People loading shotgun

Fight that involves multiple people going back and forth

Lots of close ups on guns, face, armor, etc... (sequence)

MUSIC:

1. What is overall “mood” and “feel” of the piece?

The mood and feel will be an intense, but in an ironic way. It’ll be presented like a serious, gritty war documentary, but also be completely ridiculous so that it then has that contrast for the humor

2. Music track ideas

Serious, war documentary music, maybe some overly patriotic tunes for certain people or sequences

PERMISSIONS:

1. **Am I allowed to film here? Do I need permission and/or a permit?**

Yes, it's my house

2. **Will any people be in my shots? Do I need permission and/or release forms?**

Yes, people will be in my shot, no release forms needed.

GENERAL:

1. **What gear do I need to pack and bring with me for the shoot? Film gear, sunscreen, water, etc.**

Phone, tripod, lighting help, nerf guns, people

2. **How will I transport everything and keep it safe?**

It's all in my house, so it doesn't need to be transported

3. **Are there any potential hazards or complications at this location?**

None

SCRIPT

Name: Sean Keenan

Title: The Battle at Fort Dixwell

VIDEO	AUDIO
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Wide shot of inside of house to open the video

After wide shot, Interview #1 begins.

Graphic under interview states their name, age, and maybe something like their perspective on the battle or level of investment

Similar set up for other two interviews

Footage now changes between B-Roll and interview depending on subject and what they're talking about.

B-Roll

- People sneaking around the house
- Gatling gun being fired at enemy
- Person leaving their room frustrated at all the bullets left in the hallway
- Random snippets of a long battle
- Over invested roommate shoots annoyed roommate, annoyed roommate subsequently chases him

Voice over plays introducing the battle

war music fades

Audio of interview one plays

Interviewee full quote will be finished, but may cut to certain B-Roll

I'll be asking questions that can be heard but I'm off camera

Questions

- Why is this battle so important for you?
- Has this ruined the relationship you have with these people?
- What is it about shooting at them that makes you feel it's a good way to bond with friends?
- Isn't a gatling gun a little intense when everybody else just has pistols?
- Would you not be happier if you just bought your own gun, rather than yelling at everybody who has one?
- Are you worried at how much your grades have declined since this war began?
- When do you think this whole thing will end?