

# 1.5 Starting a Documentary

Try to plan your documentary out as an essay for a qualitative subject. Or, INTRO, POINT, QUOTE, ANALYSIS, SECOND POINT, SECOND QUOTE, SECOND ANALYSIS...

So this would require an introduction that frames the problem/context that you will be looking at. The introduction would then go on to state the overarching structure and interviewees that appear throughout the documentary.

Then you'd move on to your first perspective along with supporting interview extracts, then another perspective and another. Ideally you'd have voiceovers breaking up the audio every 2-3 minutes. You'd end the documentary with a closing summary of all of the perspectives that have been considered and a way for students to message in their opinions.

In short, think about who the STAKEHOLDERS are in your documentary. This could be radically different for every documentary but there's still one stakeholder you should always try to include: University of Bath students. Get voxpops from them. Get them to message in their thoughts if you're going to run a live debate for the end of the documentary.

Unfortunately, you'll need to rewrite most of your documentary script after you've collected interviews. You'll need relevant statistic facts, news stories and data that your voiceover can use to legitimize the presence of each of your stakeholders. These could be to support or challenge their perspective.

Documentaries are bloody hard without committed researchers that have a specialist knowledge of the topic. They are the backbone of every stage of your production, and will prove vital for when you are padding the final draft of the voiceover script with relevant statistics and data.