

## Mockumentary Exercise

Documentary Style contains several standard elements. First person narration

The narrator looks just to the left or right of the camera as if they are addressing a "reporter" who is sitting next to the camera

B-roll footage

Still images that relate to a past person or event we have no video of

Voice over by the narrator telling a story about the B-roll or still images

The story is often over a long time ago, and the narrator has the benefit of time to reflect on the importance of the events.

A Mockumentary is a sub-genre of documentary that

Assume for this story that a generation is 25 years. Your parent was born 25 years before you. Your grandparent was born 50 years before you. Your great grandparent was born 75 years before you, and your great great grandparent was born 100 years before you. If you are searching for pictures of a fake ancestor that looks a little like you, use a photo that is from an appropriate time period. Over time, the photos will become more recent and turn from black and white to color. Peoples' clothes, hairstyles, cars, etc. will be a great indicator of the year.



## Mockumentary Exercise – Continued

NARRATOR ON CAMERA: My people come from \_\_\_\_\_. I guess you can say that's where it all started.

VOICE OVER: My great-great (grandfather or grandmother) was a (profession). (He/she) was amazing. People would come from miles around just to watch (him/her) \_\_\_\_\_. But when my great (grandfather or grandmother) became a \_\_\_\_\_ (different profession), they figured it was the end of the line for the (original profession). Then my (grandmother or grandfather) took a right turn and went into (other profession) that brought shame and disgrace upon the family. After that, my (mother or father) brought respectability back to the family when they became a \_\_\_\_\_.

NARRATOR ON CAMERA: But then I came along, and people remembered my great great (grandmother or grandfather). They say these things can skip one generation, but three?

VOICE OVER: But I excelled, and I achieved, and I exceeded all expectations. By the time I was (age) \_\_\_\_\_, I was (some amazing achievement) \_\_\_\_\_. They say I am an inspiration to \_\_\_\_\_ (some group of people) everywhere. That may be true, but I just focus on being me.

NARRATOR ON CAMERA: But when you got it, you got it... (demonstrates their talent that is not really all that impressive). (Deliver a funny wrap-up sentence, and demonstrate the talent a final time, then fade out.)

Here is an example by Patrick

<https://vimeo.com/532395906>

(The instrument being played is a Dachs-Trommel-Spieler in Himmel mit Waffel)

(Translation: Badger drum player in heaven with waffle)

