

One of the most important dimensions of documentary practice is the understanding of the subject matter as organic, fluid and evolving with time. Unfortunately many of the stories carried in mainstream media do not acknowledge this dimension and require the journalist to have little more than a superficial interest or connection with their subject matter. However, much of the documentary work that is presented in galleries or other publications is the result of an in-depth investigation carried out over a considerable period of time.

### Aims

- to develop research skills commensurate with that of a visual documentist
- to encourage the student to have an ongoing involvement in one aspect of the community in which s/he lives
- to identify a meaningful story that the student believes should be told to a broader audience
- to become a stakeholder in the community issue
- to tell the story (visually)

### Requirements

Students are to become involved in an aspect of the community in which they live. The intention of this involvement, ongoing and sustained over the academic semester, is for the student to become a stakeholder in the issue they are investigating. The student is to identify a story that they believe would bring benefit to the community if told to a broader audience. Through choosing an appropriate approach (methodology) the student is to investigate the community issue. The conclusion drawn must be sustained by the investigation and presented to an audience visually.