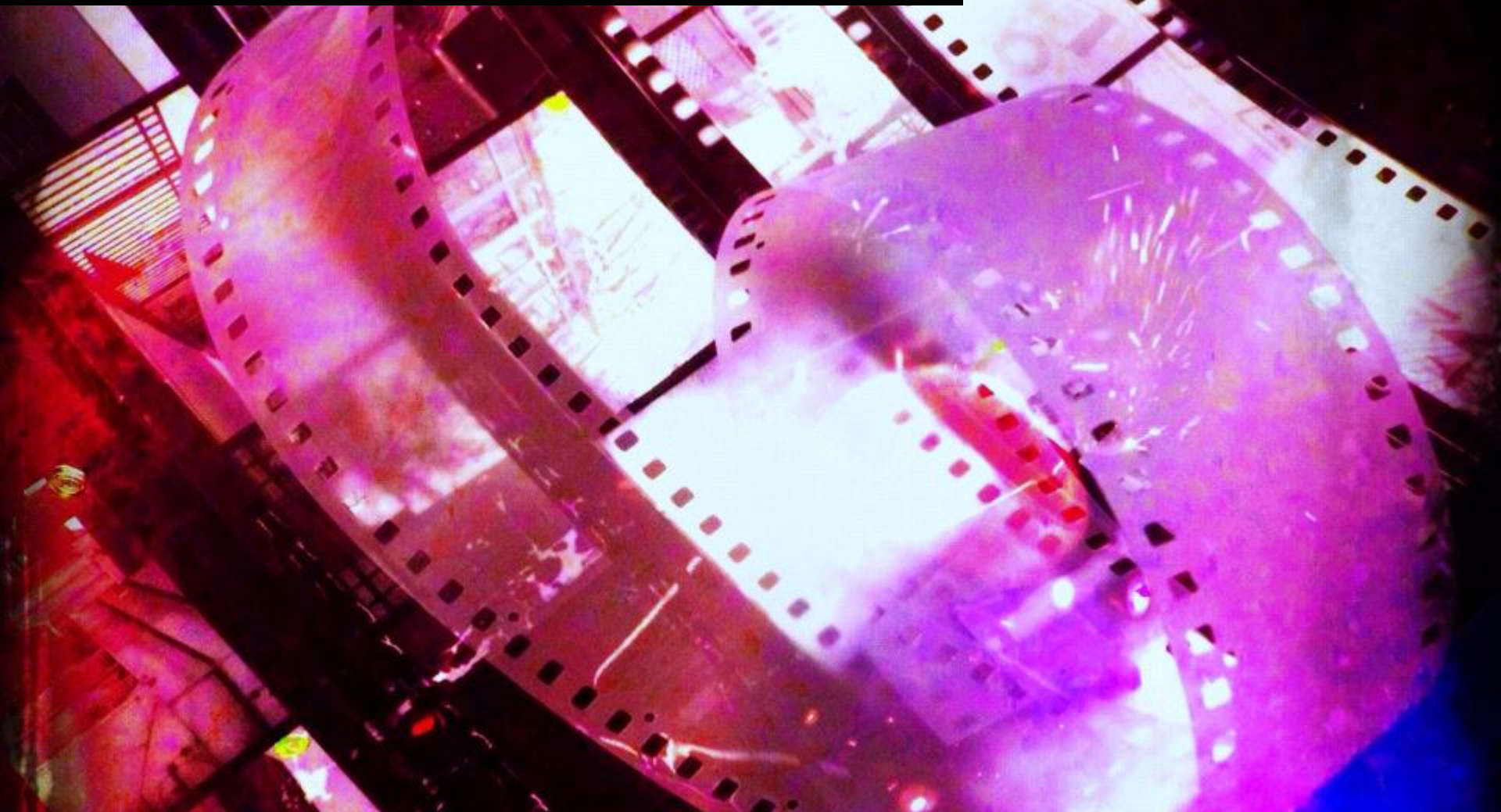


EX UMBRA: DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL



Design Challenge:

Bring a local issue “out of the shadows” and into the light.

Summary:

In an effort to make an impact on their surrounding community, students explored various social issues in Whitfield County. After thoroughly researching their issue of interest, students created documentary films to bring these topics “Out of the Shadows.” Script writing and statistical analysis was a heavy component in the film making process. Technology was utilized in the form of video and digital cameras, digital voice recorders, cell phones, Adobe Flash, and Sony Vegas. Most importantly, this design challenge allowed students the opportunity to effectively develop their creativity, collaboration, and communication skills while making a true connection with their community.

Alpha Activity: Set the Hook

Students watched a few short and full-length documentaries in an effort to understand the value of storytelling and cinematography.

Gather: What do I need to know?

Students went out into the community to observe, interview, and engage the public to discover issues that have gone unnoticed. The students came back with a variety of issues that could possibly be addressed in a documentary film.

Glean: What is my focus?

Students shared their insights, stories, and inspirations as a large group. Once everyone had a chance to communicate their findings, issues were then clustered into various themes, which included:

1. Inconvenient Truths
2. The World Next Door
3. Invisible Youth
4. Ghost Town in the Making

Generate: What are the possible solutions?

Base on theme interest, students formed small documentary teams to tackle the issue head-on. Students made connections, found participants, scheduled interviews, and started storyboarding ideas.

Gauge: How do I build and test my ideas?

Once students had an idea for implementation, they collected photographs and film footage, wrote a preliminary script, and began digitally prototyping their documentary films.

GO!: No more questions! Time to GO!

Once students had received critique and feedback on their digital drafts, each team proceeded to complete their final edits and produce their films.

Omega Activity: The Main Event

To conclude the design challenge, a documentary film festival was staged to highlight all the hard work students put forth. Spectators, which numbered in the hundreds, were treated to six different documentaries. At the end, viewers voted on the best production. The winning film was titled “Rocky Road,” a powerful look at a homeless man and his struggles to recapture the American Dream. Other films included:

1. Shaw Industries: Weaving a New Age
2. Trailblazer
3. Why Georgia?
4. Derailed
5. My Cup Runneth Over