



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Writing the Script!

Writing The Script For Your Video

Your Film is composed of five scenes. It is during this portion of the project that you will research and write the scripts for your five scenes.

Script #1: The Student Introduces their Video To The Viewer (Green Screen)

Script #2: Student Narrated Video Slideshow Presenting the Problem.

Script #3: Student Narrated Animation (Fable).

Script #4: Student Narrated Video Slideshow Presenting the Solution.

Below are explanations of what students need to write for each corresponding scene. I also included a Model Script I wrote for the endangered animal that I selected, the Elwah Salmon. Please view these models to help you have a clearer idea of what information needs to be presented in each of your five scenes.

Script #1: The Student Introduces their Video To The Viewer

Purpose: You are to introduce yourself and explain the point of this video that you have made.

The Scene: *Students will be filmed in front of a Green Screen reading the script they write (see example below). The students need to memorize what they write – they can't look at their script. Behind the student will be images or video of the animal they selected.*

Note: *These videos will be on public display. In order to insure the safety of the students, they are not to state or show their names in the videos. You can create an alias though!*

Action!

“Hello, I am John Harrington. I have created this video so that you can have a better understanding of the plight of the Elwah Salmon. Salmon throughout the world are becoming endangered and face extinction as is the Elwah salmon. I will be presenting to you both the issues that are causing this problem and the solutions that will help these fish recover. By the way, I made all the drawings in my film. I hope you enjoy them.”

“Follow me now as I take you to the Elwah River in the state of Washington.”

Cut!

Script #2: Student Narrated Video Slideshow Presenting the Problem

Purpose: The student explains normalcy and then introduces the problem

The Scene: *Each student will write a script that will 1. Briefly describe what life was like before this animal became endangered. 2. In this region, who or what benefited from having the animal you chose active in that region? 3. List and explain each of the problems that caused the animal to become endangered. The student will eventually read the script into the computer's microphone (students CAN read directly off their script); this audio track it will eventually be inserted into their video. They will then go online and find images that match the content of their script and create a video slide show with their narration and a little music in the background.*

Action!

“For thousands of years, the Elwah Salmon have been following a cycle of hatching, swimming to the oceans and a few years later swimming back up the Elwah River to the exact same section of the river that their parents and their parent’s parents came to spawn. The Elwah are a type of King or Chinook Salmon – they are massive in size. There are countless benefactors to this yearly migration: The local indigenous population relied upon the arrival of the salmon as the major part of their food supply. The animals and birds relied upon them to feed. Even the trees and other plants relied upon the salmon’s remains as nutrients in the soil.”

In 1913, the Elwah Salmon never made it up the river to their spawning grounds. That year, two **dams** were built blocking the salmon’s yearly migration. Nowhere in the design of these dams did they engineer ways for the salmon to bypass them so they could reach the spawning grounds. The circle of life was broken. This had a huge impact on the Elwah people, animals and land. It took four decades to get these dams removed. In 2012, the dams were leveled and the water was allowed to flow unobstructed. But the Elwah today still struggle to survive and remain an endangered species primarily because of two other problems that persist throughout the Western rivers: Habitat Destruction and Fish Farms. **Habitat destruction** on the Elwah River is a result of pollution and garbage being dumped in the rivers by both industry and people. The erosion of the land into the Elwah River following the clear cutting of local forests clogs the rivers with sediment. And finally, the fertilizer and pesticides farmers use to grow their crops washes directly into the waterways that the Elwah Salmon are traveling in.

But probably the greatest problem that directly kills off the Elwah Salmon are the **Fish Farms**. Throughout the world, huge fish farms are built directly on the natural waterways that the salmon travel. One of the largest is on the Elwah River. These are Atlantic salmon that are raised in net enclosed pens on these rivers – they are massive densely populated feedlots where all the decomposed food and waste falls through the net into the rivers. The baby Elwah Salmon, on their journey from the spawning grounds to the ocean, are exposed to the diseases and sea lice that are coming out of these fish farms. Since they are so young, they have very little resistance and die.

Cut!

Script #3: Student Narrated Animation – The Fable.

Purpose: The student presents the scene as though it is a first person account by an indigenous person from the region telling the story of what life was like with the animal before it became endangered and what it is like now. This is a fable, a made up story based on facts.

The Scene: *The student will eventually read the script into the computer's microphone (students CAN read directly off their script); this audio track it will eventually be inserted into their animation. Every image in the animation will be drawn by the students. Eventually, their narration and a little music will be inserted in the background.*

Action!

“Everything in my world was tied to the existence of the salmon. I remember as a little girl watching the salmon swimming up the river. There were so many, the braver boys in our tribe would try to walk across the tops of them to get to the other side - they never made it, but it gave us a good laugh. Most of these salmon were 5 feet in length and over a hundred pounds. I would help my mother strip and smoke them so that we would have a large supply of meat to get us through the Winter.

The rain strips the land of nutrients and washes it out to sea, but it is the salmon that bring the nutrients back. I would watch the Kewah make their annual trip up the river and past our village. The bears and eagles would swoop in and catch a salmon and take the carcass into the woods to feed. The trees and plants would receive nutrients from the remains and grow. The insects would feed on these leaves and drop into the water where the young fish would feed on them. Everyday I watched a complete Circle of Life, and the Kewah were the cornerstone.

I remember the year that the salmon did not arrive. A tremendous fear descended on our village. I was told massive stone blocks down river were blocking their journey. I didn't understand, but I did begin to see how my world would drastically change without them.”

Cut!

Script #4: Student Narrated Video Slideshow Presenting the Solution

Purpose: The student introduces the solutions to the problems stated in Script #2.

The Scene: *Each student will write a script that will list and explain each of the solutions to the problems stated above.*

The student will eventually read the script into the computer's microphone (students CAN read directly off their script); this audio track it will eventually be inserted into their video. They will then go online and find images that match the content of their script and create a video slide show with their narration and a little music in the background.

Action!

“The first and greatest problem to the survival of the Elwah Salmon had been the dams blocking the waterways. In 2012 the two dams on the Elwah River were removed- what an achievement. So what was learned? Salmon need to get to their spawning grounds. When dams are built, routes need to be engineered to allow the salmon to bypass the dams. One of the solutions is fish ladders; fish ladders are a long series of steps that the fish work their way up to bypass the dam.

The problems that still need to be solved for the survival of the Elwah salmon is the destruction of the habitat and the elimination of the fish farms on the salmon's natural migration routes. Just like the dams, even though everyone sees the problems, implementation of the solutions are not in the foreseeable future. People have been cleaning the garbage out of the rivers, but the farming and fish farm industries do not plan to change their practices of polluting the waterways with chemicals and diseases.

Cut!
