



DOCUMENTING A MOVEMENT- MEDIA & FILM LESSON GRADE 3 AND UP



OBJECTIVE/GLOBAL CONNECTION

Using the short film *Standing Above the Clouds*, students will analyze what it means for documentaries to center the experiences of activists or protectors in contemporary social justice movements.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to stand for something sacred?
- What is sacred to you, your family, your community?
- Who does *Standing Above the Clouds* identify as leaders of the Protect Mauna Kea movement? Are you used to seeing leaders like that on TV or in real life?
- What is your role as a filmmaker telling the stories of political or cultural movements?



ACTIVITIES

Creative Prompt: What does sacred look, sound, feel like?

Film Reflection: After watching *Standing Above the Clouds*, please answer the following questions in short essay format and prepare for group discussion. In the short documentary:

- Identify the people, places, events, or aspects of people, society, or nature that are the focus of this film including major themes and emotional journeys of the characters.

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ACTIVITIES CONT.

In the short documentary:

- Nonfiction can enrich viewers in several important ways. Describe an aspect of the film that caused you to think in a new way, or helped you understand something more thoroughly than before, caused you to think in a new way, or helped you understand something more thoroughly than before
- What is the importance of representation in media particularly nonfiction? Who is framed as an expert or a leader in your daily life, and how do you see portrayed as an expert or a leader in *Standing Above the Clouds*?

Art Response: Using accessible media (phone, camera, pen/paper, etc.), respond to the prompt: What is sacred and how do you defend it?

Strong Woman Video Project:

- Introduce the term *mana wahine* and its significance to the Protect Mauna Kea movement including the definition provided by activists through our Maori relatives. *Insert can be found as a separate submission in Waihona.
- Think of a *strong woman* in your life you have access to and look up to as a protector. Produce a short video (suggested 1-5 minutes) highlighting why you admire them. As a director, keep a journal on your experience establishing mutual respect and establishing a visual language.

“Mana wahine is a recent term born in the last 40 years or so to reflect strong Maori female leadership and the qualities we have inherited from the Atua wahine. We have had to articulate mana wahine as a term because of the patriarchal nature of colonization that attempted to silence our authority and relegate us to secondary status. Our women have said that mana wahine is different from white feminism because it's grounded in whakapapa - our genealogy to the atua wahine and our creation stories, cosmology and spiritualities. It's also grounded in our struggle for tino Rangatiratanga autonomy in our own country as Indigenous people.”
Ngahuaia Murphy, Maori Academic, Author and Activist

<https://onlypaintedfire.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/indigenous-feminism-a-discussion-of-mana-wahine-and-maori-womens-theory/>



Mana Wahine by Hāwane Rios
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btSBNyzM9zU>

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ACTIVITIES CONT.

- Please refer to the "[TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING A MOVEMENT](#)" handout.
- Listen to Hawane Rios's song "Mana Wahine" and write a short reflection.

Sacred Spaces video project:

- Look to a place considered sacred in your community and produce a short video (can be 60 seconds) highlighting what it means to you or your community. If this is on tribal land or there is an organization responsible for the place's safeguarding, introduce yourself to them and set your intentions.



- As a director, journal this process.
- Please refer to the "[TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING A MOVEMENT](#)" handout.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

VMedia (Music, Film)

- [Together We Rise by Hawane Rios](#)
- Specifically 'Mana Wahine' ([Link to music video on YouTube](#))
- Kaneokana: [50 Years of Mismanaging Mauna Kea](#)
- [Like a Mighty Wave \(Dir. Mikey Inouye\)](#)

Print

- [The Documentary Future: A Call for Accountability by Sonya Childress](#)
- [Teen Vogue: Kapulei Flores is documenting the Protect Mauna Kea movement.](#)
- [Colorlines: Inside the Native Hawaiian Fight to Save Mauna Kea](#)
- [Do No Harm: Photographing Police Brutality Protests](#)
- [Photographers Guide to Inclusive Photography \[download\]](#)



REFERENCE MATERIALS CONT.

TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING A MOVEMENT

- Prepared by Kapulei Flores, Jalena Keane-Lee, and Amber Espinosa-Jones. A worksheet and resource guide containing protocol for filming or taking photos in movement spaces.

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