

Concept -

1. Who is/are the central character/s in my story?

Kansas, city Voters

2. What action is/are my character/s doing?

standing in a long line, waiting to vote

3. What timeframe/s and location/s am I working with?

kansas city, kansas and Kansas City, Missouri and the elections offices

4. What is the tension or drama in my story?

The Kansas City Metropolitan area is divided by the Missouri-Kansas State line. The differences are mostly on paper, but Kansas City Kansas is already early voting, where as their Missouri compatriots will have to do all their voting on one day.

5. Why is this story *necessary* to tell?

Only a portion of States allow early voting, Kansas is one of them and Missouri is not.

MM in blue:

Andrew grey:

This sounds interesting.

Remember that military base access can be a real hassle -- so begin efforts now if you need to visit Leavenworth. Would make a good scene with training (even basic training can serve as a backdrop to the HTT piece of the story).

I've been talking to a Public Affairs officer on base they know I'm coming and seemed pretty pleasant. I also have a "point of contact" within HTS (human terrain systems).

I'd like to know who the main character is. Do we have an anthropologist in our sites yet?

I was hoping for an Anthropologist being prepped to ship right now. I'm in touch with Anthropologists at the Kansas City School of Missouri. They've been approached by HTS. They might know someone who has embedded or is considering it. I set up an interview with two Anthropologists on wednesday.

One notion is that the story takes a different angle: the opposition to using social scientists in direct military operations.

Good concept... let's see how quickly we can tighten the focus on our one key person... |

Focus Statement - (Two sentences are ok)

After a decade in the field of Anthropology 'Joe Bob' has decided take take his experience and know-how into a war zone. His preparations begins in Ft Leavenworth, Kansas -- one of two military intelligence facilities employing social scientists in a program called the Human Terrain System.

Kansas, city voters are already making their choice for president. Lines are already long for the vote, and they're only going to get longer.

Would be good to write this now using your "ideal" focus. I'd like to see the preferred plan as crisp as possible.

Host Intro -

In Kansas City, Kansas voters are already casting their ballots for the next president. Just across the Missouri State line no one is early voting. That's because Missouri only provides

early ballots to absentee voters with a good excuse. Next Generation's Andrew Russell has the story from both sides of the state line.

Script -

Russell/ Get Out The Early Vote – script
10-30-08

What's the Difference between Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri?

<Stand_up_ambi here>

<Montage

<Duration: 25

Alan_Epstein: "One's in Kansas and one's in Missouri

...

Anthony_Waltridge "basically... More Free spirit">

The Kansas City Metro area straddles two states, Kansas and Missouri. People may debate the benefits of each state. But there's one important difference this November. Election Stations are already open in Kansas.

<Duration: 5

Election Commissioner Newby: "Well I like the idea that on the Kansas side the voters do have the opportunity to vote early"

That's Bruce Newby -- Kansas City, Kansas Election Commissioner. He says early voting has been on Kansas law books since the sixties. Kansas started voting two weeks early, unlike Missouri which won't allow voting until November 4.

<SB>

<DURATION: 12 "It's not realistic in my mind or practical to expect everybody to show up on one day. I personally think that that should be an option that's available to every voter across the United States.>

People snake in a long 'S' outside the office of Kansas city Election Commissioner Newby. The line slings out the door even spilling onto the street. <AMBI

Kansas_city_election_Commission2> The crowd is young, elderly, black and white. Their enthusiasm seems bolstered by the number of people waiting. For them -- Today is Election Day. Edwin Bartlett looks for his wife as he joins the queue out-front.
<SB>

<DURATION: :10

Edwin Bartlett "I would have wished to have a little better parking down here, but other than that it's fine. I'm voting early because I'm going to go out of town so I wanted to do it now.>

Kansas voter Kevin Tribbit came to the polls early hoping to avoid the lines.

<SB>

<DURATION: :14

Kevin Tribbet "Normally I wouldn't vote early, but because of how important this election is I'm voting early. I have a feeling this line is going to be even longer on the day of, so that's why I'm voting now.>

Voter Alicia Sampson waits her turn patiently. She says this day has been a long time coming.

<DURATION :06

Alicia Tompson "I just think of this line as opportunity, that's what this line means to me">

<ambi Charlie wells>

Charlie Wells is getting up in the years, but he's in good spirits today. He's already charmed the women ahead of him in line. With his wife at his side Wells doesn't mind waiting in the cold.

<SB>

<DURATION: 13

Charlie Wells "It's a small line for the giant step I'm trying to take.">

Long lines for the early vote aren't unique to Kansas. More than thirty states have started early voting for the presidential elections. In some places people are already waited for hours. If the lines this week for early voting are any indication -- brace yourself -- this Tuesday may bring a long wait at the polls.

For Next Generation I'm Andrew Russell, in Kansas City.

Visuals

First of all, let's talk about equipment.

I will have a professional Canon kit available for you to use.

I will check out the equipment to you under my supervision. In other words, If you're going out to shoot I will go with you.

The reason: The equipment belongs to my company and I have to make sure it's used properly and doesn't get damaged.

Here's the equipment list:

- 1 Canon Mark II digital camera (top of the line)
- 1 17-35 mm lens (for wide angle photography)
- 1 70-200 mm lens (for tighter pictures)
- 1 Mark II dedicated flash.

I will have additional accessories for us to play with.

Let's talk aesthetics:

Think of the visuals the same way you think about sound. Pay attention to details and diversify your presentation.

Shoot wide to establish a sense of place

Shoot tight (faces, hands, details in the way a person dresses)

Think about motion and action (Person has to be doing something!)

Think light and composition (set up your photo shoots early in the day and late in the afternoon for better light)

Shoot low, shoot high, go beyond the obvious. Kneel, stand on a chair, put your camera on the ground. Look for a high-overhead positions.

Patience: sometimes you have to wait to capture the right moment. Have an idea what you want to say with your photograph, wait for that relationship and snap the picture.

Think of pictures the same way a painter thinks of a canvas. Every part of the picture has to

have a reason why it's there. If there are distracting elements in the background eliminate them by moving around. Look through the camera and dissect the image in quadrants, if something doesn't belong, eliminate it.

The ultimate Multimedia presentation will have 2 minutes of sound Attached to 20 images (This is a lot you will have to do a lot of shooting). The images will run as a slide show as the sound is narrated.

We will use the software SoundSlides to accomplish this.

Here are a couple of examples of some recent work I've produced (To give you an Idea what we are going after) :

One on San Francisco's cable cars:

http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_travel/cable_cars/

One on the endangered California Condor, threatened by a wildfire:

http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_national/condors_wildfire/

Since you are on the radio field, your sound will be crisper with smoother transitions.

My suggestion is to dedicate on day of the project just to make pictures. After you have gathered and edited your sound.

Hope this helps,

Marcio Sanchez.