

Making Media, Making Meaning

Identity, Literacy, and Community in a Youth
Film Production Program



Joslyn Young
Stoneleigh Junior Fellow
Research for Action
Brown Bag
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Chester Voices for Change
2009 Summer Institute



Chester Voices for Change

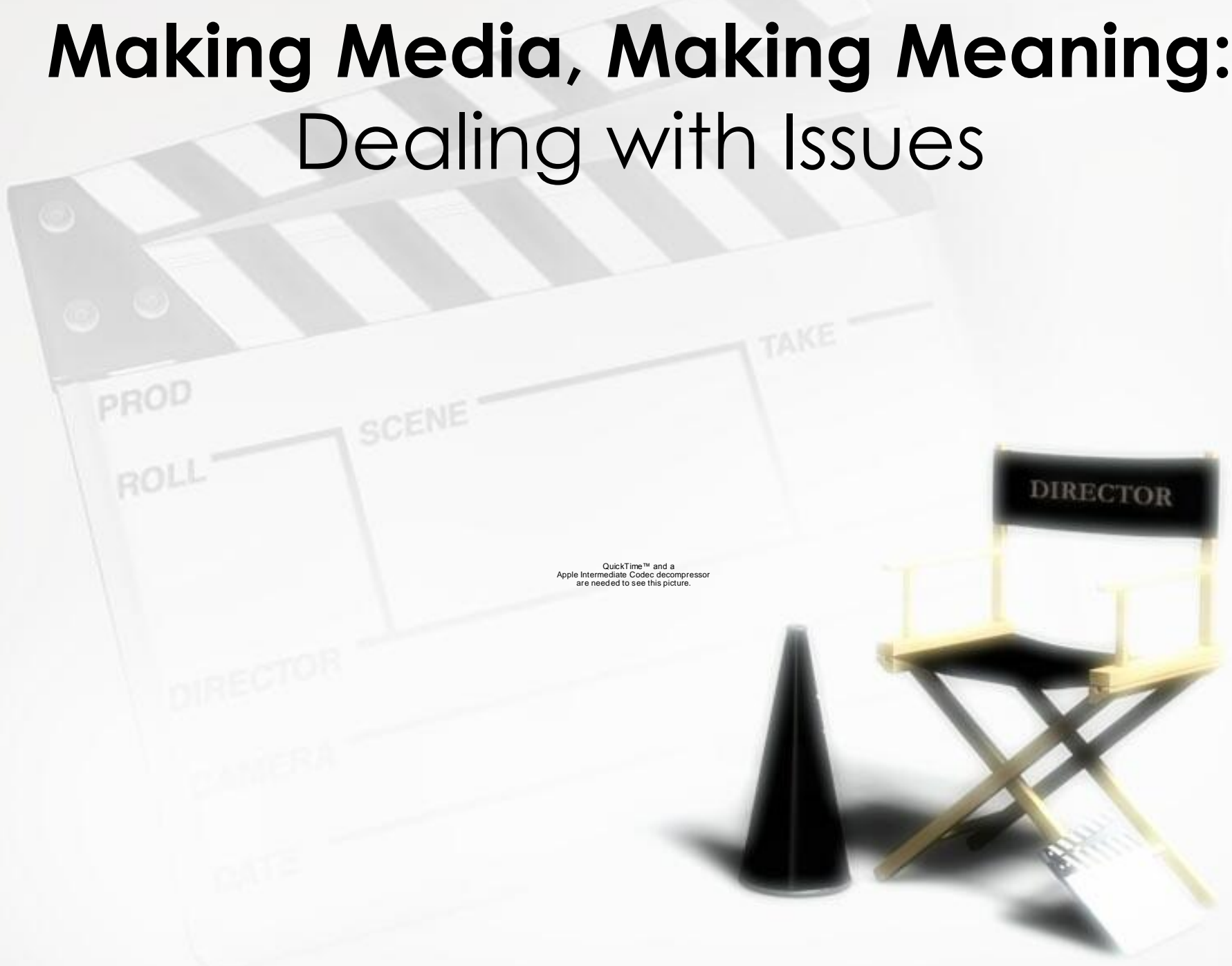
- » Lang Opportunity Scholarship support
- » Community Partners - Chester PAL & Team MAC



- » 6-week Summer Program for 10 teens
- » Local Internships in pairs - 2 afternoons/week
- » *Through Our Eyes*: Participants wrote, acted, filmed, directed, and edited (45-minute film)

Making Media, Making Meaning: Dealing with Issues

QuickTime™ and a
Apple Intermediate Codec decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



Research & Methodology



- » Participatory Action Research
 - Daily Observations
 - Recorded Weekly Reflections
- » Participant Feedback
 - Interviews (Pre & Post)
 - Surveys (Pre & Post)
- » Parent/Guardian Feedback
 - Survey (Post)

Finding #1: Effects of Group Membership

New forms of social capital

- » In-group protection
 - Sean in Philadelphia
- » Positive group association
 - “As a group, we do need to act positively. We’re not like everybody else.” - Ashley
- » Positive peer pressure
 - “Come on guys! We’re supposed to be voices for change!” - Ashley

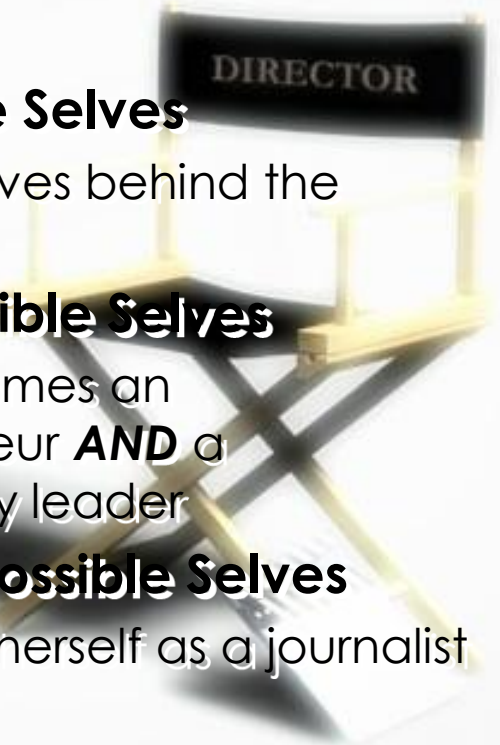


Finding #2:

Development of Possible Selves



- » Possible Selves: ideas of self in the future
- » 3 Main Development Paths in Program
 - **New Possible Selves**
 - » Ashley moves behind the camera
 - **Revised Possible Selves**
 - » Tony becomes an entrepreneur **AND** a community leader
 - **Reaffirmed Possible Selves**
 - » Faith sees herself as a journalist



Next Steps:

Continued Research with RFA

- » Media literacy and production connected to traditional literacy
- » PSU & Possible VFC Research sites
- » Expanding understandings of literacy for educators



www.chestervfc.wordpress.com

