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The One

Babies, remixes, music videos, parodies, vlogs, original shows, art—they all find their way on to YouTube. Despite their disparate origins and goals we accept them, welcome them, repeatedly watch them for a plethora of reasons. YouTube is a space that encourages creators and viewers to focus on even the smallest of ideas and experiences in the lives of the average citizen. We watch a 30 second clip of a kid woozy after going to the dentist or a two minute clip young man singing into his webcam and we see one moment in their lives. We define them according to it. We think about those singular moments in our own lives, moments that we usually keep private, wonder what would happen if they were made public. Often, as we have seen, we—and thousands around the globe—imitate it.

The above videos suggest that each individual person and their singular ideas are important, as Juan Mann writes of the first free hug he gave:

The first person who stopped, tapped me on the shoulder and told me how her dog had just died that morning. How that morning had been the one year anniversary of her only daughter dying in a car accident. How what she needed now, when she felt most alone in the world, was a hug. I got down on one knee, we put our arms around each other and when we parted, she was smiling.

The videos reveal who we are as citizens in a world that, through the use of participatory media like YouTube and Twitter, is becoming closer, more aware, more interested in exploring what it means to participate, share, and learn.

In this project we are going to consider the importance of the individuals in our community by asking 25 – 30 people one question which asks them to narrow down all the possibilities to one answer: What is the one thing you hope to accomplish today? What is the one most powerful memory of your childhood? What is your one favorite article of clothing? And so on.

The question you ask is up to you, though it must be approved. In class we will talk about the kinds of questions that might work the best. You should interview a diverse group of people (that is, don't just talk to your close group of friends and family—get out and talk to people you don't know). The goal will be to compose an idea-driven video through which viewers will learn about the ideas, lives, and experiences of ordinary citizens.

Interview Specifics

Number of people to interview: 25 – 30

Questions to ask, in this order:

1. What is your first name?
2. Where are you from?
3. Your “the one” question.

Please be sure that people know that this is for a class project and that the video will be put on YouTube, but that their name will not be used if they so wish. If they say their last name, please start over so they can give you just their first name.

Final Video Specifics

Each video must contain the following:

- A representative sample of the 25 – 30 people you interviews
- A clearly defined beginning, middle, and end
- A title screen
- An image/clip at the exact middle of the film that accurately represents it
- A soundtrack with music borrowed from Jamendo
- Closing credits, including music credits
- A Creative Commons license

Length: 3 – 5 minutes

Due dates

W 9/16: Know your question and present it in class.

M 9/21: Initial Interviews due, 3 possible music selections chosen

M 9/28: Final videos due on YouTube by 11:00pm