

Untold Stories and Getting Beyond Mainstream Coverage

DMC-DMK Senior Seminar

Here's the assignment due at the beginning of class on **Wednesday, Sept. 10th**

The focus of this assignment is for you to track down and begin researching a minimum of **4** socially significant "**Untold stories**" or issues. These "untold" stories or issues should be of national or international importance, **BUT** for one reason or another, they have **not** been covered or communicated **effectively** (if at all). Perhaps they have been **overlooked**? Perhaps they have been **avoided** because of their complexity or emotional impact? Perhaps they don't see the light because an organization with **vested interests** wants them not to? Or perhaps they have tended to be **marginalized** or **under-reported**, or brushed aside in favor of other obvious or sexy issues? In all cases, these untold stories should go beyond the mainstream.

In order to do this, you'll need to do **THREE** things:

First, you'll need to go to and peruse through the **South End Art Hop** either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday **this weekend (Sept. 5-7)**. Look through the different exhibits and exhibitions with an eye toward interesting and important topics or issues which are brought out through people's art works, **but which might not have been addressed much in mainstream media**. Identify **at least two** which rise to the top. Identify the artist (or artists), take several photos (if allowed) and describe in one or two paragraphs what you think is **SIGNIFICANT** about the issues brought about by the works and how you might approach them as a senior seminar topic further aimed at national and international audiences as a doc film, web doc or E~book.

Second, read through the survey findings from the **PEW and GALLUP RESEARCH SITES**. [See links below](#). Identify 4 different surveys (2 from each) which are particularly interesting to you. Read **between** the lines and think about the range of issues which might be behind such findings? Then assess the following for each:

1. Describe/Analyze what might be behind such findings or have catalyzed such trends. Be specific.
2. An analysis of **WHAT** the **untold** or underrepresented issue is and **WHY** it matters
3. **WHY** is it of **national** or **international** significance?
4. **HOW** does it tend to get stereotypically presented or covered when it is addressed (people, sources, perspectives, ideological stances, etc.)?
5. **Project forward 5-10 years**. If the survey findings signal a trend which might continue to grow/evolve, then what additional issues are we likely to face in the future?
6. **Senior Sem Project?** How could this be shaped into an interesting documentary (film/web) or e~book analysis in your eyes?

THE LINKS:

- **GALLUP:**
 - <https://news.gallup.com/poll/691964/family-top-value-americans.aspx#>
 - <https://news.gallup.com/poll/trends.aspx>
- **PEW:**
 - <https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/internet-technology/>
 - <https://www.pewresearch.org/topics-categorized/>

Third, read, navigate, and screen the following pieces below with an eye toward **story conceptualization** and **production approaches**. Look at these pieces **carefully** and take notes on **what** the untold issues appear to be and **how** the author/producer connects you to the subjects and ideas. These are strong examples of book, web doc, and doc film productions. For each one, **write at least two substantial paragraphs** in which you explain what the untold stories are and how the author/producer connects you to the subject matter.

- **Read/Screen:** **Breath chapters** (by James Nestor)
- **Web Navigate:** **Planet Money Makes a T-shirt** (NPR) <http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/title>