

OCAD - Video and Audio Voiceover Scripts

Script #1 – v4:

The dawn of humanity was often dark, chaotic, even violent.
People would fight over food, water, or land without fear of formal consequences.
Vigilantes settled matters with their own bloody hands.

Lawlessness wasn't just among regular citizens.
Dictators would also do whatever they wanted.
They punished their own people with impunity and ruled in perpetuity.
They acted as kings and lived as gods.

Over time, the rule of law slowly improved these deeply uncivil, even barbaric, norms.

The question is: how did this profound change happen?

We will look at two themes.

The first is “***Order from Chaos: The Dawn of Law, Legal Standards, and Structures.***”

Here we see how law emerged to govern society.
This will provide context for later discussions of technology, human rights, and democracy.
Topics include: Common Law; natural versus positive law, criminal versus civil law; sentencing;
and deviance.

The second theme is “Rise of the Legal ‘Person’: Introducing Human Rights.”

Here we will look at the concept of the “person” in law.
We will discuss how law expanded to include new rights for more diverse groups.
Topics include: women becoming legal persons; voting rights; LGBTQI rights; and legal
charters.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

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Script #2 – v4:

Donald Trump's ascendance to the U.S. presidency will **baffle** political scientists for years.

Many will wonder how a poorly-informed, ill-mannered reality TV star ever became the most
powerful person in the world.

His election and rule help bring the contours of democracy into sharp relief.

It also highlights social media use within electoral politics, both its fantastic promise and deep
perils.

Trump's rule raises questions like: How do we elect governments?
 How do we use technology to inform ourselves, and our
 peers, about elections?
 And conversely, why do we use this same technology to
 misinform?

We will look at two themes. The first is “**The Empire Strikes Back: An Introduction to Democracy & Authoritarianism.**”

Here we compare democratic and authoritarian governments.

Topics include: Athenian democracy
 Social contracts
 The right to private property and
 Consent of the governed.

The second theme is “**Digital Promise: The Internet's Origins and Use as a Communications Tool.**”

Here we will look at the technical, communicative, and social benefits of the internet.

We will revisit the original, even quaint, notion of the internet's promise for spreading democracy across the world.

This will set the stage for a later discussion of social media as an unparalleled tool for disinformation, misinformation, and fake news.

Topics include: ARPANET
 Tim Berners-Lee
 John Perry Barlow and more.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

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Script #3 – v4:

We are awash in more information than ever before.

One estimate projected that 74 trillion gigabytes of data will be created in 2021.

Given this incredible volume of information, citizens should be better informed than ever before.

Unfortunately, this is untrue.

80% of U.S. consumers reported seeing fake news on Covid-19.

Based on this, we will introduce the formation of, and attacks on, our information ecosystem.

In short, how did we arrive at this absurd place where we are increasingly overwhelmed by enormous amounts of data that are more doubtful than ever before?

We will look at two themes.

The first is “**How do We Know What We Know?: Primer on Epistemology, Data, and Information.**”

Here we introduce the history of knowledge as a backdrop to today’s information landscape.

We will also introduce rhetoric as a means of persuasion.

This will provide context for our current informational woes.

Topics include: Descartes’ thoughts on epistemology and
 Aristotle’s rhetoric.

The second theme is “**Talking About a Misinformation Revolution: The Rise of Misinformation and Disinformation.**”

Here we look at the emergence of misinformation, disinformation, and fake news as well as their differences.

Topics include: The origins of yellow journalism
 The history of propaganda, and
 The recent emergence of fake news

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Script #4 – v4:

Governments create laws, rules, and regulations that govern their citizens.

Unfortunately, some people chafe under these dictates.

Society has always been under the opposing pressures of the rulers versus the ruled.

If government-imposed laws are oppressive and their ends anti-social and regressive, is it unethical **not** to protest?

And how have all of these tensions become more complicated in the era of disinformation?

Also, how have creators, activists, lawyers, and international organizations responded to disinformation, misinformation, and harassment over time?

We will look at two themes. The first is “**Dialing Up a Revolution: Human Rights Mobilization in an Analog World.**”

This includes human rights mobilization before the internet’s mass penetration.

Topics include: Martin Luther King
 The U.S. Civil Rights Movement and
 Early political art

The second theme is “**Digital Peril: Social Media’s Strengths and Weaknesses.**”

Here we look at social media’s emergence and its impact on North American human rights.

We will discuss human rights mobilization from the recent past into the present and on to the future.

Topics include: #OccupyWallStreet
 #BlackLivesMatter and
 #MeToo

I look forward to seeing you soon!

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Script #5 – v4:

Why do we look at images of pain and horror, often the most tragic parts of life?

In Susan Sontag’s “Regarding the Pain of Others”, she explored the idea of looking at atrocities by focusing on war photography.

Major artists have created provocative work on gruesome topics, including the aftermath of political tragedies.

We will have a primer on political art and propaganda. We will look at two themes.

The first is “**Creative Resistance: History of Political Art and Visual Propaganda.**”

Here we examine historical uses of art for rights advocacy.

This is intended to provide students with inspirational examples for their own prospective class work.

Topics include: Pablo Picasso
Norman Rockwell
Diego Rivera
Keith Haring
Ai Weiwei as well as
multimedia forms of protest art like music, television, film, sculpture, and
posters.

The second theme is “**Cases of Fighting Back: Using Social Media to Resist State and Social Oppression.**”

Here we will look at examples of social media as a tool against different forms of oppression.

We will provide examples of social media use for advocacy.

Topics include: Maria Ressa
Alexei Navalny
#ArabSpring and
online protest art.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

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Script #6 – v4:

Predicting the future has always been complicated.

But rapidly changing technology that reaches all parts of the globe has made it even more so.

Futurists have tried to predict where humanity will go, often with mixed results.

We will look to the future of social media, human rights, and political structures, focusing on two themes.

The first is “**Back to the Future: Where Do We Go From Here?**”

Here we discuss the future of human rights, social media, and their intersection in the fight against global oppression.

Topics include ideas from futurists like: Carl Sagan
Marshall McLuhan and
Alvin Toffler.

The second theme is “**Moving Forward: Class Human Rights Presentations.**”

Students present, discuss, and provide feedback on their social media campaigns and art projects.

We will celebrate student learning as well as end our course.

I look forward to seeing you soon!