

Sample Documentary Script

The following is an excerpt from the first draft of a History Day documentary script (storyboard) about Cesar Chavez. The left column describes images that will be displayed: the right column is the narration text. Primary sources are highlighted and in bold text. (Students were instructed to highlight their primary sources for easy identification.)

IMAGES	NARRATION
Portrait of Cesar Chavez	Cesar Chavez once said, "Our workers are not filthy beasts to be feared. They are not lesser than any one of us, nor are they better. They are human, they are American. They are to be treated with dignity."
Men and women farm workers working in the fields	In California during the 1960's, Cesar Chavez took a stand for migrant farm workers rights, and fought against low wages, pesticide poisoning, and poor living conditions. In 1950, male farm workers were paid \$1.10 an hour, while women were paid even less.
Picture of Helen Chavez	Helen Chavez recalls, " When the grape harvest was pretty heavy, sometimes I'd work 10 hours a day, 5 days a week, for \$.85 an hour. "
Picture of a farm worker's family	Often times families were forced to bring their children to work so the family could survive.
Farm workers working in the fields	In addition to low wages, workers suffered inhumane working conditions. John Gregory Dunne the author of <i>Delano: The Story of the Grape Strike</i> said, " The workers hunched over the vines like ducks, there is no air, making the intense heat all but unbearable. Gnats and bugs swarm out from under the leaves. Some workers wear face masks; others, handkerchiefs knotted around their heads to catch the sweat. "
Pictures of fields, and bottle of pesticides	The growers use of pesticides was one of the main contributors to these inhumane conditions.
Picture of pesticide bottles and Mr. Yuk stickers	The pesticides <i>captan</i> , <i>dinoseb</i> , <i>methyl bromide</i> , <i>parathion</i> and <i>DDT</i> caused tumors, childhood cancer, and rashes or open sores that covered exposed workers' entire bodies.
Picture of Lori Salinas	Lori Salinas, a 13 year old farm worker on the McFarland plantation in California, was one of the many children diagnosed with numerous tumors, a consequence of exposure to lethal pesticides.
Workers on Giumarra plantation	In 1964, 12 workers in the Giumarra Vineyards in California died after working with high levels of pesticides.
Pregnant woman on the plantation housing	These problems were never given sufficient medical attention. The workers couldn't afford any health care benefits and the growers refused to give them any.