

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Raising Awareness of Invisible Illnesses Using Documentary
Media

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This creative project centers on how various people battle invisible illnesses. *Invisible illness* is a term that refers to an illness, whether psychological or biological, that is not evident to others. This includes well-known illnesses such as cystic fibrosis and fibromyalgia, as well as countless lesser-known illnesses. This project's goal is to raise awareness of invisible illnesses by creating a video segment. While the concept of this venture is a 60-minute documentary highlighting several individuals with invisible illnesses, this project will result in a short segment, spotlighting one specific individual, Rachel, who has three rare and chronic illnesses. She suffers from *Autonomic Instability*, *Dysmotility Syndrome*, and *Superior Mesenteric Artery Syndrome* (SMAS). *Dysmotility syndrome* and SMAS are the most disruptive, as they both cause distress to a person's ability to digest foods, thus requiring intravenous nutrition. The short segment will follow Rachel's current battle with her invisible illnesses. It will contain interviews with Rachel, as well as her doctors, family and friends, in an effort to communicate the effects of invisible illnesses to those who may be unaware.