Introduction
During the fall semester of 2010, I produced a short documentary film entitled Remembering the Removal as part of a final class project. The film tells the story of the Allegany Senecas and their struggle against the Kinzua Dam; a struggle that ultimately lead to the forced relocation of hundreds of Seneca families and the loss of over 10,000 acres of tribal lands. The film features interviews with removal survivors and incorporates archival footage from the film Land of our Ancestors.

Objectives
One of my goals with this project was to learn. I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of how something like this could happen and how it affected those who had to relocate. My other goal was to share what I was learning. I wanted people to understand what happened to the Seneca people and how they tried to stop it.

Research Methods
Using a variety of different research methods and information gathering techniques, I was able to begin filming after one week.
- Online Research & Seneca Nation of Indians’ Library (Allegany Branch)
- Interviews
- Seneca Nation of Indians’ Archival Department

Experience & Opportunities
Although Remembering the Removal began as a school assignment, it never felt like work to me. It was a labor of love and an awesome experience that allowed me to learn and create something that would be able to inform and educate people.

The success of the film has also provided me with numerous and exciting opportunities, including the chance to document a landmark presentation/trip by the Salamanca City UNPFII (United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues) high school group at the United Nations in New York City, an internship with the Seneca Nation of Indians’ Kinzua Dam Relicensing Commission (KDRC), and the chance to represent Jamestown Community College here at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Future Projects
I continue to work independently and with Seneca Nation of Indians’ Kinzua Dam Relicensing Commission, interviewing survivors and experts, working on archives projects, etc. Producing promotional content for JCC’s sustainability/“green” efforts. Illustrating upcoming book by Larry Hauptman that examines the history of the Seneca people. Planning to transfer to Syracuse University this fall to study documentary filmmaking.