Writing Sample:
best recent creative script for corporate documentary

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"--------: The Elements Come Together"

Script for corporate documentary
VIDEO 15 MINUTES

SECOND DRAFT: JANUARY 24, 2005

CLIENT: --------
PRODUCER: ---------- ----------
WRITER: STEPHEN X. ARTHUR

NAMES CENSORED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY (SEC)

Video	Audio
Scene 1 – the region	
LIFTING MIST. FLYING OVER GREY-BLUE GLACIERS. SLOW. KEEP THE FORWARD MOVEMENT GOING.	AMBIENCE: Soundscape evoking a subtle feeling of intrigue or suspense.
OVERLAY GRAPHIC OF REGION.	NARRATOR: Icefields broken by deep valleys. The place, Canada's coastal mountain range in northwest British Columbia, bordering Alaska. The resource, a gold and copper belt spanning ten thousand square kilometres. The Golden Triangle—a place that exploration companies watch with a keen eye as mineral prices rise. Because when prices are high, this is a place where fortunes are made.
FLYOVER OF SPARKLING RIVER BED. NO ROAD SHOWN YET.	Exploring for minerals is a guessing game. A search for tiny clues about what might be hidden deep in the rocks...
Scene 2 – the property	
FLYOVER REVEALS THE RED AND YELLOW OUTCROPS. NO PEOPLE. NO TUNNELS.	But here, these colours are a beacon. These colours are the oxidation of rich metals—right at the surface. These colours signal clearly the presence of veins containing lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. The mineral claims that hold these outcrops are called the -------- Property. The name comes from a rare natural alloy of silver and gold—called -------- —found right here. The -------- Property is one of the few sites in the world where the -------- alloy has been found. The -------- Property covers one and a half square kilometres. Such a large surface exposure is rare. No other formation like this remains undeveloped in the Golden Triangle.
Scene 3 - headlines	
NEWSPAPER – FINANCIAL POST – HEADLINE "THE $444-MILLION BOULDER."	In December 2005, an outcrop only thirty centimetres across was the tip of an iceberg that sold to Goldcorp for over four-hundred million dollars. Could the -------- Property have this kind of potential?

Video	Audio
Scene 4 – geology	
3D ANIMATION – ESTABLISH THE VEINS.	The -------- Property is riddled with veins and sheets of mineralization deposited long ago.
ANIMATE THE FORMATION OF VEIN DEPOSITS.	Hot water from deep underground carried dissolved minerals from molten or hot rock. These hydrothermal solutions rose through cracks in the rock and spread along bedding planes. Rapid cooling caused the minerals to crystallize out of solution to form vein deposits of quartz and metallic minerals.
ANIMATE GENERAL ROCK ALTERATION.	The solution also infiltrated and altered the rock outside the veins. Minerals were deposited there, too, throughout the property.
POSSIBLY SHOW REAL PICTURES.	Many veins gathered iron pyrite and zinc sulphide crystals. Along with these came grains, flakes, or slugs of silver and gold. Other veins
ANIMATE GOLD AND SILVER COMING TOGETHER.	gathered massive concentrations of lead sulphite, called galena. Between the galena crystals, silver and gold melded together as pockets of -------.
ANIMATE SURFACE LOWERING TO EXPOSE THE OUTCROPS	The hard, mineralized rock stayed behind as the rock around it eroded away.
Scene 5 – other mines	
LOCATION MAP.	The -------- Property is surrounded by mining operations for copper, silver, and gold.
HIGHLIGHT E----.	Forty kilometers from the -------- Property is E---- Creek—one of the richest precious metals mines in the world. E----- Creek, owned by Barrick, was started in 1995. By 2004, total production of gold was over two point nine million ounces. Silver totalled a hundred and forty million ounces.
OVERLAY FIGURES:	
"2004:	The value of gold produced in 2004 alone was about a hundred and twenty-three million dollars.
Gold: 289,568 oz	
@ $425/oz = $123 million (US)	
Silver: 15.751 million oz	Silver came to about a hundred and ten million dollars.
@ $7/oz = $110 million (US)	
Cost of Production: $9 milllion (US)"	

Video	Audio
HIGHLIGHT IN SEQUENCE: SNIP, SILBAK-PREMIER, RIVERSIDE, RED MOUNTAIN, G-----.	Other major mines operated in the past.
	The G----- silver and copper mine produced up to ten thousand tons a day. The mine closed in 1984. But today, G----- Mines is expanding its claim area and testing with diamond drilling because copper prices are soaring.
THE LANDSCAPE AROUND -------.	Right nearby, new drilling found high-grade gold at the Summit Lake Property and at the Silver Coin Project. These two properties lie in geological formations similar to the -------- Property.
BACK TO THE PROPERTY.	High-grade gold was even discovered in ground adjoining the -------- Property. Why, then, does ------- wait here, untapped by the modern world?
REVEAL WIDER AREA, MAYBE BACK TO GLACIERS.	In remote locations, often the biggest barrier is *access*. In BC's Golden Triangle, mining companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars to first build a road to get to the property. And they must wait years for permits to build the road. Is this needed for the ------- Property?
Scene 6 – the road	
REVEAL THE ROAD.	Surprisingly, the investment has already been made.
	This full-blown haul road ends only two kilometres from the ------- Property. It's been in place for thirty-five years.
SATELLITE IMAGE – THE G----- ROAD AND BOWSER CREEK.	This forty-kilometre road was built by G----- Mines. The cost to build the road in 1970 was ten million dollars. The equivalent cost today is well over a hundred million.
ROAD FLYOVER.	Today, the BC and Alaska governments maintain this road for mining transport and tourism. Currently, one million dollars is being spent for upgrades.
TRUCK HAULING ORE DOWN THE ROAD.	Trucks from the ------- Property will be loaded with heavy ore. Luckily, they'll be travelling downhill most of the way—saving expensive

Video	Audio
	fuel. Does the road take us to a viable shipping point?
Scene 7 – the port	
SATELITE IMAGE OF THE PORTLAND CANAL.	At the other end of this road is the most northerly ice-free port in North America. A long fjord reaches far inland, forming a natural boundary between Alaska and Canada. This canal brings deep sea lanes close for shipping to smelters in China, Japan, and other countries.
ESTABLISH S--------- BULK TERMINALS. CONVEYER BOOM LOADER.	S--------- Bulk Terminals is a port with specialized equipment for loading ore—both rock and concentrate.
ORE TRUCK COMING IN. ORE CONTAINERS. WORKER DUMPING IT, WORKING IT. WORKER TENDS POWDER.	This port handles the whole region—currently about ten loads a day, at forty-one tons each. And there's plenty of room for more. They're looking for business.
STILL OF FREIGHTER AT LOADING BERTH.	It's common to see ore freighters six hundred feet long. Fifty thousand tons in one load. And water is the cheapest way to transport. So roads and shipping are well taken care of. What about skilled labour and heavy-duty equipment?
Scene 8 - Stewart	
ESTABLISHING SHOTS OF ---------- TOWN. PEOPLE. REPAIR SHOPS. FUEL STORAGE. AIRFIELD. MICROWAVE TOWER. HEALTH CENTRE. HOTEL. POST OFFICE. RCMP. FIREHALL. BANK.	Two kilometres from the port we find the town of ----------. This town grew dramatically when the G------ and Premier mines were operating. Mining is this community's lifeblood. The town supplies the commonly-needed materials and services for mines. Welding shops. Heavy-duty mechanics. Transportation-related businesses. An airport. Communications. And other essential services.
MURAL. MEMORABILA.	More than ninety years ago, ---------- had ten thousand residents. Today there's less than five hundred. ---------- is a boom-and-bust mining town that needs new mines coming on stream.

Video	Audio
HOUSES AND PEOPLE.	Right now ---------- is home to many unemployed miners and truck drivers who want to go to work. And new workers will find plenty of cheap housing. The people of ---------- want their town to survive.
Scene 9 - facilities	
W------ FACILITIES. TAILINGS LAKE.	Nearby is a warehouse, a mill, and a tailings lake from a past-producing mine. These facilities offer options for production at the ------- Property.
BACK TO THE PROPERTY.	Much of the infrastructure is already in place. And even some facilities. So why does ------- remain, so far, largely unexplored?
Scene 10 - history	
REVEAL THE TUNNEL.	From 1939 to 1965 the ------- Property was mined by hand in underground workings.
OVERLAY FIGURES: "Gold: 1,661 g/tonne (48.5 oz/ton)" "Silver: 2,595 g/tonne (75.7 oz/ton)"	Smelter's records show this mining brought out forty-six metric tons of hand-picked ore. The concentration of gold was over sixteen hundred grams per metric ton. Silver was over twenty-five hundred.
OLD PHOTOS OF LOCAL MINERS AND HORSE, 1946.	The mining was largely the work of a sole operator, Al P------. There were no roads. During those twenty-five years, Al P------ carried the ore on his back and by horse. Often he packed out, on his own back, fifty pounds of ore worth a hundred dollars a pound.
AL'S JOURNAL. ONSCREEN LABEL: "ORIGINAL JOURNAL, 1944-1951." HIGHLIGHT LINES.	Al's journal records the forays of his small crew. VOICE OVER SIMULATING AL P------: Blasted two holes today… Crushed one bag of ---------… [TBD…]
	NARRATOR: Then in 1965, tragedy struck. During blasting, Al P------ was killed.
REVEAL THE COLLAPSED PORTAL.	
MORE OF THE PROPERTY, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE OLD DRILLING HOLES FROM 1987.	Al P------' stepson, along with two others, held onto the property as a family asset. Only very limited exploration was attempted.

Video	Audio
	By 2004, it was time to option the claim to an aggressive developer. The claim-holders passed on the torch to a newly-formed company with solid management —
Scene 11 - logo	
ANIMATED LOGO – SILVER AND GOLD SIDES COME TOGETHER. SUBTITLE: "THE ELEMENTS COME TOGETHER." THE PACE PICKS UP NOW.	— ---------- Resources.
Scene 12 - Allan	
INTERVIEW – ALLAN.	ALLAN (SUGGESTED TOPICS): We have an unusually experienced and qualified team for a junior company. Highly respected team, newly drawn together. Industry-leading experience in mining, exploration, finance, and law. Effective blend of conservative and aggressive direction:
MAYBE INSET PICTURES OF BOARD MEMBERS AS THEY'RE MENTIONED (?).	Distinguished career in law and management. Environmental science, marketing and management. Senior executive mining management and metallurgy. Senior-level investment banking. One of Canada's top mine finders. Advisory board gives exceptional counsel on key decisions.
	Our philosophy. Acquire only forty-three one-oh-one qualified properties that are clearly undervalued. Importance of finding undervalued properties. When the market is hot, you don't go for pure exploration. Timing favours those who can go to production quickly.
	With this team, the properties found us. Analogy of right jockeys, right horse, right race.
MAP OF PROJECTS.	ALLAN CONT'D VOICE OVER: We have a good balance of other properties in our portfolio. All in BC. This means easier logistics. The country of origin is politically stable, pre-eminent in mining. The province is pro-mining.
	We're going to the ------- Property first. Here's what we're doing—

Video	Audio
Scene 13 - sampling	
HELICOPTER TAKES OFF. ON THE WAY. THE PACE REALLY PICKS UP NOW.	MUSIC: The mood becomes strong and dynamic.
GUYS ALL OVER THE OUTCROPS. BREAKING ROCKS. COLLECTING ROCKS. MAGNIFYING GLASSES. CLOSEUPS OF GLITTERING SAMPLES. MAKING NOTES. TAKING READINGS. LOADING ROCK INTO HELICOPTER. TENT SCENE.	ALLAN CONT'D VOICE OVER: In the Summer and Fall of 2005 we did preliminary mapping and sampling. Initial chip samples of selected veins returned very high grades of gold up to two hundred and fifty five grams per metric ton, or about eight ounces per ton. Silver was two hundred and ninety-nine grams per metric ton, or nine point six ounces per ton. This is from across the property, not just the old mining site.
HELICOPTER HOVERS OVER OUTCROP. EXPAND TO THE WHOLE PROPERTY.	We also performed an airborne magnetic survey. It's now being analyzed to define the best targets. A hundred metres west of the property, exploration on the adjoining T---- Property's F------ Zone discovered high-grade silver and gold that appears to continue onto the western part of the ------- property, an area that's had no previous exploration.
3D ANIMATION – BLOCK OF LAND RISES UP. NUMBERS ONSCREEN.	This volume of rock at the ------- Property weighs about [___] metric tons.
Scene 14 - geologist	
INTERVIEW – PERRY GRUNENBERG WITH ONSCREEN IDENTIFICATION AS THIRD PARTY REPORT. [ALTERNATIVE: DARREN.]	GRUNENBERG/DARREN (SUGGESTED TOPICS): The geology of the golden-triangle area. The property—alteration throughout. Classic iron gossan formation. Rock samples and indicators. Porphyry deposits. Grades indicated by the samples are typical for this style of mineralization.
Scene 15 - Darren	
INTERVIEW – DARREN.	DARREN (SUGGESTED TOPICS): The assays

Video	Audio
	confirmed what we expected. Exploration is recommended. Phase one exploration will look for high grade veins. In July 2006 we're going to pop off the crust. Plus mapping, sampling, geochemistry, geophysics, and diamond drilling. Then, depending on what we find in phase one, phase two will look for larger tonnage, economic bulk mining. Cost estimate for the two phases of exploration is three hundred and eighty thousand dollars, plus the cost of a warehouse and housing for staff in ----------.
INSERTS OF THE PROPERTY.	We have a huge advantage having it on the surface. It's easy to evaluate and easy to get to it, to start production. We've saved five-hundred million because there's no need for engineering to get down underground. The average cost for a mine to get into production is a billion dollars because of engineering and access roads. We only need two hundred thousand dollars for the small road extension and power extension. Power lines are already halfway here. So we don't need a joint venture. We won't have the cost of setting up a camp because ---------- is an hour away. No need for permitting and environmental assessment for a camp of hundreds of miners. Workers can commute from town. Our cash flow could start right away. We like to say we can start with a hoe, two trucks, and a permit. Note that E---- Creek nearby was exposed only eleven inches and they mined it for twenty years.
<u>Scene 16 – key interests</u> BACK TO ----------:	<u>DARREN CONT'D VOICE OVER:</u> Even more elements coming together are these key vested interests. One of the ------- Property optioners is the area's mine expeditor. He provides any kind of supplies, fuel, and mechanical repairs. Another one of the claim holders owns the port, the warehouse, and the ore loading facility. These are key people who have already been a tremendous help to us. They both hold shares in ----------, and will get royalties. You have to have the community on your side—and we do.
<u>Scene 17 - environment</u>	

Video	Audio
MERGANZER AND BEAR FOOTAGE.	As a professional conservation consultant, I know ---------- will be good to the environment and community.
<u>Scene 18 - closing</u>	
------- SIGN AT PROPERTY. MAYBE STILLS OF MANAGEMENT STANDING AROUND IT. FLYOVER OF THE PROPERTY	<u>NARRATOR</u>: Like silver and gold coming together to create -------, a rare mix of elements comes together—positioning the ------- Property at a new level. ---------- Resources comes out of the starting gate *ahead*—in what many experts believe will be one of the biggest bull runs of precious metals in history.
FADE OUT.	