An Overview

Good video do not happen by accident. One of the characteristics of producing a good video is knowing how to handle the camera. The proper use of a tripod almost immediately separates a professional video from a home video. The quality of your shots will improve by using a tripod as your series of shots develops into a meaningful sequence. A good videographer is familiar with how the camera can move and how each movement effects the viewer. The second characteristic which contributes to a good video production is preplanning, also known as pre-production. Professionals meticulously plan everything, before they even pick up a camera.

Your group will produce a 1 – 2 minute, video showing a pursuit or a "stalking" situation using the key concepts outlined below. The goal of this task is to learn how to use the key camera movements; to know the purpose of each camera command; and to select the appropriate camera movement for each situation. After you plan the video, you will film the sequence of shots. There should be a heightened sense of suspense as the stalker catches up to the person being stalked. The ending is your choice.

The final step is clean up your editing using the video editing software. You may choose to edit by yourself using the group's footage, or with your group. In the next project, you will add copyright cleared music.

Key Concepts and Skills

- camera movements (still shot, pan, tilt, dolly, pedestal, truck, arc)
- the difference between a dolly and zoom
- sequencing your shots to tell a story
- post production editing and sound
- cuts
- avoiding jump cuts

Process

- plan your sequence in storyboard form
- Each person writes his or her own original written sequence, from which, one will be chosen.
- Why does everyone have to have one script per person if you are only going to film one video?
     This is so that you may learn the language of scripting, which is different from novels and short stories.
- Get together with your group and choose one sequence that you will improve and film.
- Shoot your sequence in order
- Ensure that you are using the camera techniques properly, and that you are using all the techniques outlined in the rubric.
- Edit your final sequence using Adobe Premiere

Communication

Storyboard (one original storyboard per person)

- plan your sequence in the order that it occurs, that is, what happens first, what happens second, etc.
- be careful not to leave out any details
- think about where the action will take place
- use the proper camera terminology to describe your shots
- each shot must include the kind of camera shot
- for example, still shot of the stalker peering around the corner; or pan the stalker walking in front of the vending machine in the cafeteria

Storyboard	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Sequence develops into a meaningful story; Sequence is comprehensible and easy to follow; Terminology properly used; Volume drawings reflect the direction of the written descriptions; Includes frequent use of all the required shots	10 11	12 13	14 15	16 18 20

Application

Still Shots	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four		
Still shots consistently show no movement in the background; Still shots frequently used	5	6	7	8	9	10

Pan Shots	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four		
Properly used to follow horizontal (left/right) motion*; Decisively used**; Shots used to reveal; Pan shots frequently used	5	6	7	8	9	10

* The subject is kept within the frame of the video when following motion. Some space is left in front of the person. DO NOT try to follow 2 subjects moving at different speeds as you will tend lose one person from the video frame; in other words, concentrate on following one subject.
** Decisive pan shots have a definite beginning and end.

Tilt Shots	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four		
Properly used to follow vertical (up/down) motion*; Decisively used**; Shots used to reveal; Tilt shots frequently used	5	6	7	8	9	10

* The subject is kept within the frame of the video when following motion.
** Decisive tilt shots have a definite beginning and end.

Dolly Shots	Level One		Level Two		Level Three		Level Four		
Dolly shots used effectively*; Dolly shots frequently used; Zoom shots are never substituted for dolly shots	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	20

* The dolly shot is mainly used to make it feel like you are approaching at the victim from the stalker's point of view. It is used to heighten suspense. Use dolly shots to follow action from the viewpoint of the stalker.

Editing: Cuts	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four		
All shots timed appropriately; No jump cuts*	5	6	7	8	9	10

* Jump cuts are two shots in a row with camera in the same position for both shots and no change in focal length, that is the lens doesn't change from a wide shot to close shot. The person in shots jump from one position to another and it looks jarring.

Thinking

Overall Sequencing and Story Telling of the Final Video	Level One		Level Two		Level Three		Level Four		
Suspense heightens as production progresses; Shot sequence effectively tells the story; Plot progresses and culminates in a surprise ending	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	20

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