An Overview

Using all the skills that you have acquired in video (camera movements, video composition, conversation sequences, editing, choosing and controlling audio levels, compositing) you are to produce a short plot based video with your group. The key to a successful production is planning and organization. Hence, you must go through the appropriate planning stages as outlined in the subsections, Pre-Production, Production and Post Production.

Key Concepts and Skills

- pre-production, production and post production
- file management
- synopsis; screenplay and storyboarding
- camera movements: pan, tilt, dolly, still shots, cuts
- composition: rule of thirds, the three quarters head position, video as a close up medium
- cutaways and two camera angle editing
- sequencing and timing
- rendering and submitting your final production in the proper file format and codec

Scope

- For this project you will create a 3 to 5 minute video. Remember, **quality** wins over **quantity**!
- You will have approximately 3 weeks to produce this video.
- Outline your key plot points using the synopsis.
- Use the scripting format outlined here to write your script.
- Use the storyboard to develop your sequence of shots.
- All filming will take on school property unless arranged with the teacher.
- The steps outlined below will help you generate ideas and organize your time in order to accomplish your goals.
- In short...
    - keep it simple
    - work as a team
    - be organized
    - pay attention to the learned principles
    - don't disturb others; have fun

Pre-Production

The Idea

- Discuss with your group the possible genres in which you will develop your plot.
- Some genres include: drama, comedy, action adventure, horror, mystery, western
- Write down all of your ideas.
- This is the best time to ask the teacher any questions about plot development and filming.

Synopsis

• Complete the video synopsis using the template provided.

• At this point you are outlining the plot from the beginning, middle and you are giving away the ending.

• Remember, at this point you are working out all the plot details. You do not include dialogue or shot information at this point.

• Revise, revise, revise. You are further ahead making any revisions to your plot at the synopsis stage, rather than making plot changes at the script and storyboard level, which can be very time consuming.

Script

• With your group members, script your video using a word processor.

• Number each scene write a description, specifically, describe the location AND what will take place in the scene.

• Include all actions and voice changes in parentheses ( )

When you are finished the script should look like this:

Scene 1: A School Classroom

This scene is a typical classroom, no specialized equipment, a white board in the front and desks neatly arranged in rows. There is about to be a major confrontation by the two students, George and Fred, but it is quickly put to an end when the teacher arrives. The tension between the two students continues thereafter.

George: Where's the money you owe me? (Holds his hand out)

Fred: What are you talking about? I don't owe you any money. Get out of here. (Pushes George's shoulder.)

(Teacher enters the room.)

Teacher: Hey,.what's going on?

Storyboard

• Using a word processor create a table which will serve as your storyboard.

• The story board will consist of Video Action frame (what you see) and Video Description

• Include a minimum of 7 frames per page.

• **Helpful hint:** Be detailed when scripting and that will save you work when working on the storyboard.

• You may copy and paste your script into the storyboard into their respective shots, add camera information, camera movements, print it, and draw the frames.

• For the **Video Action** frame draw volume drawings of the characters in pencil

• Do not draw stick people!

• Be mindful of the rule of thirds when placing the subjects within the video frame

• Carefully choose an appropriate field of view, for example, a close up shot to show intimacy, a medium shot to show interaction that is less personal, long shot to show the scene, etc.

- In the **Video Description** frame of the storyboard include detailed information about each shot. Include all of the following.
  - dialogue
  - ambient audio (audio that isn't dialogue that is natural on the set)
  - sound effects
  - actions
  - vocal changes
  - shot composition (ECU, CU, MCU, etc.)
  - camera movements
  - any directional tips for the actors

Production

Video Coverage

- Shoot your video footage.
- Get permission to use any special facilities in the school.
- Be respectful of the various locations in which you are shooting: it's a privilege!
  - Abuse of this privilege will result in not being allowed to leave the classroom
- Shoot each shot more than once to ensure the best shot for editing.
- Using the storyboard as a guideline, be mindful of camera handling and composition.
- You need not shoot everything in the sequence in which it occurs in the final video. You can rearrange the sequences in your editing. Shooting a conversation out of sequence and rearranging it in editing is one such example.

Post Production

Video Editing

- Using all the skills that you have learned in video editing.
- Sequence your shots in order, and time them accordingly.
- Pay attention to pacing. Keep the plot moving forward.
- Add music and control its levels, and if necessary, add sound effects.
- Everyone knows how to edit, so it is expected that each person takes his or her turn.
- Add a title at the beginning of the video. Add title screens or captions if you wish.
- Add rolling credits and a blooper reel at the end.