

CS3343: Digital Media Production

Assignment 4: From “here to there” – camera motion and shot composition (1-2 minute video)

GROUP ASSIGNMENT Assigned: Sept 30th, 2008

Part 1 Due: Oct 9th (by Friday 11:59pm) [uploaded to IVLE]

Part 2 Due: Oct 16th (in Lab on CD/DVD Friday)

Purpose of this Assignment

- To gain more experience in treatment writing
- To gain experience in storyboarding
- To gain experience in filming with camera motion (panning, dolly, etc)
- To gain experience in capturing sound with different microphone types
- To gain experience in scene composition
- To practice simple special effects

MAIN TASK

You are to make a video of someone going from point A to point B, hopefully for some purpose. They do not have to be in motion the entire time, they can stop and look around, talk to someone (a requirement), have something interesting happen to them, whatever you want, but the overall premise is they are going from A to B. Some examples:

- Going home from university/work
- Going from class or dormitory to canteen
- Going from home to a shop
- Anything else you can think up that involves a journey from A to B

THINGS THAT MUST BE INCLUDED

1) The video should include the following regarding camera work:

- At least one conversation between the subject and someone else
 - o Goal is to practice conversation shots with dialogue and 180 rule
- A variety of camera shots should be included to make the video interesting (i.e. different camera angles, motions, and camera control)

2) The video should include the following regarding audio work:

- You should incorporate into your video recording at least three audio pickup patterns
 - a) Omni, cardioid, line (shotgun)
- You should also do at least one stereo recording – the stereo effect should be prominent

3) At least one special effect:

- o Split screen effect
- o Sped-up background
- o Crunching depth of field
- o Reverse play
- o Etc. . .

LENGTH OF PRODUCTION: Your video should be at least 1 minute long, but no longer than 2 minutes.

The final compositing is up to you, but you should follow rules discussed in class regarding:

- Camera-to-subject distances, angles, and motion
- Rule of thirds, symmetry, asymmetry, and closure
- Transitions use to give effects (of time compression)
- Use of cutaway shots
- Use of music, supporting audio

NOTE REGARDING ACTORS/TALENT: There is no requirement that the group members have to appear in the video -- your friends, family, paid actors, etc, can be the “talent”.

ASSIGNMENT COMPONENTS: There are two parts to this assignment.

PART 1 – Preproduction - treatment and storyboard (Oct 9th - Friday 11:59pm)
[uploaded to IVLE]

You need to prepare two (2) documents:

1. Treatment

You will need to prepare a treatment that describes the overall story of your video. Basic camera shots should be discussed along with the action as well as how you plan to use the microphones (i.e you audio recording plans). The exact use of cutaways and detailed editing (like jump-cuts) may be omitted. Generally such shot composition like cutaways and jump-cuts are added at the post-production stage to help fill in the story and produce interesting scenes with the footage available.

However, your treatment should still have a reasonably detailed idea of what you plan to shot and the shots that you want. This is really for your own sake, to help you plan the shooting of the actual footage.

2. Storyboard

Once you have your treatment done, you need to produce a storyboard. Your artistic skills need not to be that good, but you should be able to sketch the basic camera shots in enough detail. Follow the advice described in the notes from Prof. Leow (our guest lecturer on Story Boarding). Each shot in the treatment should be included in the storyboard. Action should be denoted with arrows in the storyboards. Text should also accompany the story boards to give a brief description of the shot and action.

Here is a nice webpage to help you print out storyboard templates (there are others, just google search)

<http://www.pdfpad.com/storyboards/>

You will need to scan in your storyboards and submit them with your treatment.

PART 2 – Production/Post-production Oct 16th (in Lab on CD/DVD Friday)

Working from your treatment and storyboard you should produce your final video. This involves capturing the raw footage and compositing the scenes together.

The final production should contain the following:

- 1) A title slide with your group members name and group name (5 seconds)
- 2) Your Video
- 3) After your production, a slide (same as title slide) that states the amount of actual footage recorded in minutes and seconds should be shown for 7 seconds.

The additional time for the intro slide and closing slide are in addition to your video, so if you use the maximum 2 minutes for your video, then your submission will be 2m12s in length.