

CS3343: Digital Media Production
Assignment 5: Drama (~5 minute video)
GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Assigned: 2009

Part 1 Due: Oct 25th, 2009 (11:59pm by IVLE)

Part 2 Due: Will discuss this in class – give you two options (before Nov 10th, or Nov 18th)

Purpose of this Assignment

- To gain *more* experience in preproduction for a short drama
- To gain more experience in the *production* stage
- To gain more experience in video production (treatment, script, storyboard, filming, post production)

MAIN TASK

You are to make an approximately 4-5 minute drama. Your drama should involve one or more central characters who undergo some conflict which is resolved by the end of the video. You have complete freedom to come up with the drama you want. Your video is quite short for a real drama, but you should attempt to use the 4-5 minutes to clearly develop the three-acts, introducing your character(s), establishing the plot line and conflict, and then resolving the conflict.

You should approach this video production in the manner we have discussed in class. Your preproduction stage is to develop the story through a premise, treatment, and script. Your peers (other classmates not in your group) will be asked to provide feedback on your treatment. You have a chance to revise it afterwards, before developing the shooting script, and rough storyboard.

Once you have your story/plot developed, you move to the production stage where you will capture real footage of your production. Remember, you are now telling the story on “film”, using visuals and audio to convey your story to the viewer. You should use all the techniques we have discussed in class, including visual aesthetic techniques for framing, scene construction, camera-to-subject placement, camera motion, etc. Remember to capture some extra footage to use in the post-production for cut-aways, etc.

The final stage will be the post-production editing, where you will cut down your footage to be within the time frame. Remember to use transitions, cut-ins, cut-outs, etc to effectively tell your story. Also, be mindful of the audio and its balance between the on-screen and off-screen sound.

One thing you need to do in this assignment that hasn't been asked in previous assignments is to keep track of the roles of each of your team members, and their contribution to the different components.

Having trouble coming up with a story?

Lots of plot generators online (search for “plot generator”):

<http://boston.conman.org/cgi-bin/plotdriver.cgi>

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/glentana/ExplorerHome.html>

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 – *premise and treatment* (Due Sunday 11:59pm, Oct 25th)

You need to prepare one (1) document:

Premise/Synopsis

Write a short sentence premise of your drama, followed by a one-paragraph description of your story. (See lecture 3 for simple examples). Do this on a separate page, and bring your treatment on the next page.

Treatment

You will need to prepare a treatment that describes the overall story of your drama. You do not have to explicitly outline the acts of your drama, but it should be clear by the reader that your treatment is describing a dramatic story. You should give rough timelines for how much time each part of your treatment will take in terms of the whole video. I will ask others (at least 2-3 of your peers) to give your group feedback on your treatment.

PART 2 – Script/Storyboard/Production/Postproduction (DUE DATE: TBA – discuss in class)

After you get your feedback from your peers, you can take their suggestions (up to you how to use their suggestions) to revamp your treatment if necessary. After this, you should produce your final script and a rough storyboard of your drama.

**** *There is an alternative. After submitting Part 1, you will be given the choice to keep your treatment, or use another group's treatment. That is, you can make someone else's video. Note that I will still grade you on the treatment you submitted (so don't submit a terrible treatment knowing you plan just use another groups!).* ****

Working from your script and storyboard you will 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 5 minutes for your video, then your submission will be 5m12s in length.

VIDEO WITH COMMENTS

You are also welcome to submit a second video that is exactly the same as the first, but with your comments on the video, i.e. similar to professional DVDs now with an audio track containing director/actors comments

Exporting your video:

If you can get it into 35MB, you may use IVLE. Otherwise, submit your video on CD or DVD in Lab. If you use CD or DVD, make sure it is playable -- please try at least 2 different computers to verify it works. (I doubt anyone can get their 5m video in 35MB)

Grading Criteria

- **Part 1: Preproduction (30%)**
 - Quality of the Treatment
 - Overall dramatic story
 - Can the reader have a good idea of your dramatic story
 - Can the reader visually imagine the video

- **Part 2: Production/Post-production (70%)**
 - Final Script and storyboard quality (15%)
 - Final Production
 - Does the final video follow the treatment/storyboard (10%)
 - Overall quality of shots (15%)
 - Do you follow the rules of aesthetics
 - Quality of camera motion, shots, etc... (practice and be prepared to take several shots)
 - Overall quality of the sound recording (given the equipment you have) (15%)
 - Overall quality of the final edited video (15%)
 - Do you use transitions well to tell the story
 - Is supporting music appropriate?
 - Note: it is better to use a good quality shot, then to have a poor quality shot just to add variety

Submission Instructions

We will submit our materials using IVLE for part 1. For part 2, we will use IVLE is possible, otherwise CD/DVD must be submitted to Hossien (or me) by the deadline.

Part1 (Oct 25th): Have one group member upload *a single word or PDF file*.

Name the zip file: *groupname_assign5_p1.{doc,pdf}*

Please double-check your submission to make sure it is correct.

Part2 (Nov'Deadline): Have one group member upload your final video to IVLE "Assign5-P2-Submissions" in the workbin before the deadline. If the video is larger than 35MB, burn it to

Name your video file: *groupname_assign5.{avi,mov,mpg}*.

Also include

Your Script and Storyboard, either on a CD/DVD or zipped together for the IVLE submission. If you submit DVD/CD, you do not need to zip the files.

Note: A letter grade will be deducted every day your assignment is turned in late.