

Photography 30

Photojournalism

VIDEO REPORTING ASSIGNMENT

JOURNALISM'S NEW DIRECTION

Still video journalism has been around for about 15 years and in that time technology has made it very easy to do creative and informative work. Online today there are thousands of sites that show you wonderful work by a wide variety of photographers. Many of the masters of photography now have their work put to music and displayed in a still/video format; some of them are good, others are not so good.

This is not new technology. Slide shows with music are not new but they are an effective medium for presentations in corporate and educational settings. Many of the most popular TV shows have used slide shows for their openings since the early 60's.

Today you don't need a large studio structure or TV editing station. You just need a computer, some inexpensive software, some images and a good selection of music.

PROCEDURE:

By now you should have a good idea of what you want in your video. Find a theme and stick with it. Your theme can be specific, like Rex the butcher, or you can do something rather large scale like water. It is up to you. I don't have to check you off on this. By now you understand what I mean when I say storyline or theme. Your video must tell a story!!!

Chose your subject and start taking images. Hopefully you already have. You can use images from your past as well as those you'll take for this assignment. (Example, if I did one on water I have several images I would want to use, plus I would shoot many more.)

Remember, these do not have to be display images. No need to shoot them in large format. Working digital video means the images should be rather small. Projection on a TV screen requires that you have small images to work with. If you want to capture them large then do so, but remember you need to convert them to small (100 dpi resolution) images for the movie.

➤ *For the videos I have made I find that a horizontal image is good at 7 inches wide by 100 DPI resolution – a vertical image, (which is hard to deal with in a video format) should be 4 inches wide by 100 DPI resolution – This should give you files of about 700 to 900 K – small but effective in this format. Do not make your files larger or at a higher resolution – it will only make your project less stable and more time consuming to work on. It will have little or no effect on the final product!*

Then consider your music. Any CD you have will work, you'll just have to RIP the music to use it. I can help you with that. As long as it is not for commercial use you have no problem. You can also download music but at a cost. **DON'T PIRATE THE MUSIC.... YOU WILL BE CAUGHT! PENALITIES ARE SUBSTANTIAL!!!!**

Also pick and editor to work with you. You cannot do this all yourself. You'll need another classmate to be your editor (**This is a requirement of the project**). This editor must

help you with your decisions regarding the story, images and music. Mostly he/she must help you with the organization and editing of the video. **Again THIS IS MANDATORY! Editor also must be given on screen credit or blame, depending on how the movie comes out.**

WHAT YOU NEED

Your movie should be no less than 3 but no more than 4 ½ minutes in length. **To do this well you'll need at least 50 images.** The trick is in the editing. Don't edit this like a normal story. Don't be too tight. A marginal image might not make it in a story you are going to print, and yet be perfectly fine in a video format. Remember on the screen you are looking at this as a visual unit and the image is just a portion of it. Average time for an image to be on screen is probably no more than 4 to 5 seconds) the total package is what the viewer judges.

Therefore, shoot a lot of images and then start placing them together. We have all the software in the Output Room to put this together. If you are using VISTA as your operating system on your PC, you have a very sophisticated moviemaker already. Just be careful how you save the files. What you can't do is have someone put it together for you. There are websites that will do that - **If you do I will fail you!!!!**

Whether you want to be very sophisticated or simplistic, we have software that should work for you. Figuring out the timings can be difficult and I will help you there. You can do this movie at home or here.

You can purchase the software like **Photo to Movie, PhotoDex** or others if you wish. The iMacs in the output room iMovie which is pretty good, but you may not find it the best. After a certain hour at night, we may be able to use the PC lab for movies as well.

The software itself is very easy to work with and I don't expect you to be a Cecil B. DeMille, but give it your best shot.

HINT – Don't be satisfied with your first attempt. This needs refining and refining.

If you want to add actual video clip inside the movie we can do that as well. It just makes compiling the movie a bit more procedural.

You will also need a large storage device. At the very least you will need an 8-gig memory stick and access to DVD's. You cannot save the movie here at school. You must take it with you or burn a DVD each time you finish working with it. These files can be very large so you need to understand storage and good file management. **Very important!!!**

WHAT YOU WILL TURN INTO ME

When you are done, you'll turn in one DVD with your movie on it.

You will need a title and a credits page on screen. Credits include yourself and your editor and the music credit and the artist name.

Deliver this in a manila envelop on the date assigned.