

Lesson Plan

6 Word Film Challenge

Project Summary

Students will work in small groups to create a short film no longer than 3 minutes based on a 6 Word Story. Students may write their own 6-word story, or they may use one they find online as long as it is school appropriate content and language. On screen graphics, dialogue and narration may be added, but cannot exceed 6 lines. Students are challenged to use cinematography to tell their story rather than words.

- Total Lesson Time - 10 Hours
- Standards: STN F1.1, STN F1.3, STN F2.1, STN F2.3, STN F2.4, STN F3.1, STN F3.3, STN F3.4, STN F4.1, STN F4.4
- Subject/Pathway/Industry
 - A/V Technology & Film Career Pathway (CTE)

Performance Objectives

PRE-PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Select or write a 6 Word Memoir similar to Ernest Hemingway famous "For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never Worn."
2. Script and storyboard a film no less than 2 minutes and no longer than 3 minutes that tells the story visually
3. Limit verbiage to 6 lines (dialogue, narration, screen graphics)

PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Students must film all shots themselves
2. Video should be well-framed and in focus when appropriate
3. Movement should serve a purpose
4. Lighting and color balance should be appropriate to the story
5. Audio should be clean and balanced

POST-PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Music, digital effects, and transitions should be appropriate and add value
2. Only royalty free and copyright free music may be used
3. Audio mix should be consistent
4. Songs with lyrics will count toward dialogue limits
5. Film should visually tell the story of the 6 word title
6. No more than 6 lines of narrative/dialog/verbiage should be used
7. Film should not be longer than 2-3 minutes including credits

Project Outline

1. Discuss the idea of 6 word memoirs by reading Hemingway's 6 word story ---
"For sale: baby shoes, never worn."
 - a. Discuss how simplicity and minimal words can sometimes have the most impact.
 - b. Ask what students imagine this story is about. Try to get a range of ideas
2. Show the sample of student produced film by the same title. [For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never Worn.](#)
 - a. Discuss how the filmmakers took an unexpected approach to the Story.
3. Read several examples aloud from Not Quite What I Was Planning.
4. For practice with 6 word story writing, use well-known fairy tales and characters and have students tell each character's story using only 6 words.
5. Have students write their own personal story in only 6 words. (They do not have to make their personal story into a film so encourage them to be honest) Collect their personal 6 word stories for a participation grade. Ask if any would like to share. (Be ready for some troubling responses)
6. Pass out the video project rubric and guidelines.
7. Discuss the guidelines of only 6 lines of narrative. (Don't get bogged down in dialog)
 - a. Show [Porcelain Unicorn](#) the winner of Ridley Scott's 6 lines challenge
8. Review good filmmaking technique if necessary

Resources & Equipment

1. Book: Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six-Word Memoirs by Writers Famous and Obscure by Rachel Fershleiser and Larry Smith
2. Example videos - [Porcelain Unicorn](#) and [For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never Worn.](#)

3. Word or Google Docs for Script
4. Storyboard sheets or app
5. Camera, lights, sound recording, stabilizer
6. Editing computer with software, music license
7. Internet

Industry Testimony

"I chose Porcelain Unicorn to be the winning film as it had a very strong narrative; a very complete story that was well-told and executed."

- Sir Ridley Scott, Film Director

Assessment

[6 Word Film Challenge Rubric](#)

Contact

Adapted from Don Goble's "Six Word Story, Six Unique Shots"

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Rubric

6 Word Film Challenge

Group _____ Period _____

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2	1	COMMENTS
Dramatic Effect	Plot has clear beginning, middle, and end. Dramatic effect builds to climax, then ends with falling action.	Plot has mostly clear beginning, middle, and end. Dramatic effect is generally followed, but wanders in places. Climax of story is clear.	Plot is hard to follow at times and lacks a clear beginning, middle, or end. Dramatic effect is only somewhat followed and actions seem random.	Plot is very difficult to follow and lacks a clear beginning, middle, or end. Dramatic effect is minimally followed and actions are random.	There is no evidence of plot. It is a collection of random actions with nothing tying them together.	
Lighting	Lighting is creative and always suitable to the mood of the scene, and technically superb.	Lighting is mostly suitable to the mood of the scene and is technically well done.	Lighting is somewhat suitable to the mood of the scene and is technically fair.	Lighting is poorly suited to the mood of the scene and is technically low quality.	Footage is too dark to be seen or overexposed for the majority of the film.	
Camera/ Direction	Shows advanced knowledge and use of camera techniques and highly skilled directing.	Shows excellent knowledge and use of camera techniques and skilled directing.	Shows moderate knowledge and use of camera techniques and skilled directing.	Shows poor knowledge and use of camera techniques and skilled directing.	Shows no knowledge and use of camera techniques and skilled directing.	
Audio	Audio is balanced between dialogue, music and voice over. Audio is clear throughout the video and shows advanced mixing skills.	Audio is mostly balanced between dialogue, music and voice over. Audio is clear throughout the video with some advanced mixing skills.	Audio is somewhat balanced between dialogue, music and voice over. Audio is not always clear throughout video with some mixing skills.	Audio is not very balanced between dialogue, music and voice over. Audio is inaudible in most portions of the video.	Audio is unbalanced between dialogue, music and voice over. Audio is inaudible in significant portions of the video.	
Storytelling/ Script	Complete script for entire film turned in. Uses proper format. Includes all dialogue, stage directions, scene/set descriptions.	Complete script and mostly uses proper format. Includes most dialogue, stage directions, scene/set descriptions.	A partial script turned. Somewhat follows proper format. Missing some amount of dialogue, stage directions, scene/set descriptions.	A partial script turned, maybe late. Rarely follows proper format. Missing significant amount of dialogue, stage directions, scene/set descriptions.	Did not turn in script at all or what was turned in barely qualifies as a script.	

Continuity	No lapses in continuity are present, or are insignificant. There is consistency among places, objects, and wardrobe.	Small lapses in continuity are present. There is some inconsistency among places, objects, and wardrobe.	Some lapses in continuity are present. Several inconsistencies among places, objects, and wardrobe.	Many lapses in continuity are present. Major inconsistencies among places, objects, and wardrobe.	Video is significantly disjointed. No consistency among places, objects, and wardrobe.	
Creativity	Highly unique, original idea and is well executed.	Somewhat original idea with good execution.	Lacks originality and execution is fair.	Little originality and poor execution.	Idea is not unique in any way and execution is unacceptable.	
Acting/Talent	Acting is consistently genuine and creates realism for the audience.	Acting is genuine most of the time and creates some realism for the audience.	Acting is genuine at some points and creates a little realism for the audience.	Acting is not very genuine and creates poor realism for the audience.	Acting is almost never genuine or plausible.	
Editing	Video moves smoothly from shot to shot using appropriate transitions. Clips are long enough to make the point clear and pacing captures the audience attention.	Transitions move relatively smoothly from shot to shot and a variety are used. Most clips move at a steady pace. Most clips are edited to remove slack time.	Transitions from shot to shot are fair and not always appropriate. Some clips move at a steady pace but there is slack time.	Transitions from shot to shot are choppy and are not always appropriate. Pacing is slow and there is major slack time.	No real evidence of editing. Clips are too long and do not advance the storyline, or too short and leave out essential action.	
Closeness to Topic	The content includes a clear concept and story, and follows the topic/title.	Content exhibits connections around the concept and story, with minor diversions from topic/title.	Content exhibits some connections around the concept and story, with many diversions from topic/title.	The content leaves the reader with a vague impression of the concept and storyline, with little mention of topic/title.	The content lacks a central concept and storyline, never hitting the topic/title.	
TOTALS						

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK
