

Lesson Plan

Getting Good Soundbites

Project Summary

Students will be assigned to interview another student in class and the topic is about that student's hobby. This project is a building block project towards a future project down the road of producing an entire news/feature package. This project is simply focused on the art of interviewing. The assignment is to edit down the interview into one strong sound bite that is 12 to 15 seconds in length. The soundbite could serve as the SOT for a newscast and/or it could follow a VO and serve as a VO/SOT.

- Total Lesson Time - 2 Hours
- Standards
 - STN B1.2, STN B1.2, STN B1.3, STN B1.5, STN B2.1, STN B3.1, STN B3.2, STN B3.5
- Subject/Pathway/Industry
 - A/V Technology & Film Career Pathway (CTE)
 - Broadcast Journalism

Performance Objectives

PRE-PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Students brainstorm at least seven questions using the 5 W's and H for their interview subject and the topic is on the subject's hobby.

PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Check out a camera, tripod, and microphone (wireless lav set preferred) to film the interview on the topic of your partner's hobby.
2. Follow Rule of thirds framing for the interview.
3. Record a mic check and have the subject spell their name and title.

4. Conduct the interview. Ask the pre-planned questions, but also be a good listener. Be ready to go off script if an answer from the subject requires a follow up question. The goal is to get the subject to elaborate/describe/explain their answers.

POST-PRODUCTION GOALS

1. Playback the entire interview. Identify the answer that provides the highest level of human-interest. Human-interest would require the answer to have emotion or provide some level of personal context for the viewer.
2. Edit down the best answer into a 12 to 15 second soundbite for the SOT. Do NOT include the reporter's question.
3. The SOT can be presented by itself or as part of a newscast production. It could also be paired with a VO project as part of a VO/SOT.

Resources & Equipment

1. Strong soundbite examples: Use Storytellers on Facebook as a resource or find an example from a feature story on a local news website.
2. Camera, Tripod, Microphone (Wireless Lav set preferred)
3. Editing software

Industry Testimony

"Listening is the most valuable skill -- and it needs to be practiced."

- **Ken Stone, Two-time Emmy Award winning journalist**

Assessment

Reflection: Focus on the strength of the soundbite. Does it provide a personal connection for the viewer? Does it trigger emotions? Does it meet the TRT of a typical SOT (12-15 sec)?

Contact

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