Implementing Video as an End Product of PBL (Project-Based Learning)

By Marcia Campos
mcartspro@msn.com
http://www.mcartspro.com

*Cesar Chavez Video Project students, Transitional Studies, Mission Campus, CCSF.*

Educational Applications Implied in Producing a Video Project

- Media literacy
- Story development
- Storyboarding
- Interviewing
- Cooperation
- Graphics
- Problem solving
- Personal responsibility
- Personal empowerment
- Time management
- Formulation opinions
- Offering solutions
- Editing

Materials Needed

- Video cameras (analog and/or digital)
- Charged batteries
- Blanked tapes
- Computer (PC/Mac)
- Editing software (Studio DV/AVID/Premiere, I-Movie, etc.)
- Shot Log sheet
- Storyboard sheet
- Check list
Procedure to Shoot a Video

Pre-Production Stage:

Students need to:

- brainstorm ideas for the project.
- choose the topic and plan the project.
- gather the resources needed (cameras, tapes, batteries, etc.).
- form teams.
- assign and delegate responsibilities within the groups.
- receive a brief training on how to operate the camera (handhold it, zoom in/out, etc.).
- learn the basic shots (long shot, medium shot, close up, cut-in and cut-away, extreme close-ups).
- learn some techniques to shoot more appealing videos (pan without shaking the camera, get low/high angles, get close-ups & extreme close-ups without zooming).
- storyboard the shots.
- blank the tapes.
- make a shot list.

Production Stage:

Students need to:

- check the location (lightening, windows, furniture arrangement).
- discuss interesting angles and shots.
- capture the footage.

Post-Production Stage:

Students need to:

- log the shots.
- learn how to use the editing software Studio DV, I-Movie, etc.
- assemble clips in the planned sequence.
- add transitions (effects).
- create titles and graphics.
- add background music (audio) to the movie.
- user-test the video to get feedback form their peers.
- analyze the feedback and made modifications.
Transitional Studies Instructor training the Cesar Chavez post-production video team.

Tips and Tricks

Before Shooting the Video

- Have a shot list of the footage you need to tell your story (See storyboard sheet attached).
- Check the location where you will shoot the video (pay attention to the lighting, the arrangement of the furniture/equipment/background/electrical outlets/noise).
- Position yourself so that the light comes from behind you.
- Don’t record directly from the sun. It might damage the camera.
- If the location is too noisy, consider changing the location.
- Think of the background of your movie before shooting.
- Get signed release forms from the people you videotaped if you are planning to use the video for any reason other than personal use.
- Review team roles and responsibilities.
- Review with the students the overall plan for your project.
- If you are planning to interview someone, have ready a list of questions and review them with the interviewee.
- Arrange for all the necessary equipment like VHS, Hi-8, and similar analog/digital cameras, tapes, batteries, cables, microphones).
- Make sure you rewind and label the tapes.
- Bring back up tapes in case the original get damaged.
- Do a test recording to make sure the camera is working.
- If you are using external microphones, make sure they are working and have good batteries (Lavaliere mics are great for interviews!).
- Don’t forget to turn on the mics before recording.
- Turn off the time and date features.
- Practice movements before recording (panning, tilt up/down, high/low angles).
- Let the tape ran for at least 10 seconds before start recording.
- Forward and rewind all new tapes to avoid future glitches.
- Have more than one camera to get footage from different perspectives. Each student has his/her own way to perceive things and capture images.

**Shooting the Video**

- Review you shot list before start shooting.
- Look for the best angles and good lighting.
- Keep the subject within the frame (leave head room).
- Get establishing shots, long shots, medium shots, close-ups, extreme close-ups, cut-aways, cut-ins).
- Let the camera record for five seconds before and after each shot (it will become very handy when you edit the video). In addition, every time you stop the camera it rewinds 3 or 5 seconds.
- Remove the record tabs to avoid someone accidentally record over your tape.

**Editing Analog Video**

You have different options to edit your video such us:

- You can edit “in camera”
- or “tape to tape” using two VCRs
- or by using a camera and a VCR,
- or two VCRs and an edit controller.
Editing digital Video

To edit digitally, you need a computer with a video card, sound card, Firewire connection, Firewire cable, lots of available memory, and a video editing software as for example Premiere 5.1, Studio DV, iMovie, Final Cut, among others.

The Video Teams in Action!

From left to right, Françoise Broux (Transitional Studies Oral Communication student) gets footage from a side angle. The video team covering the second stage of the Mural Project (drawing the mural). Ulises Grijalva (ABE/GED student) getting long and medium shots of the students participating in the Mural Project.

A student’s VOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oscar Perez</th>
<th>“My experience with the Cesar Chavez Project was very interesting. Participating in this project allowed me to interact with different people and speak English in real situations. In addition, I learned how to make a video”.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ESL student)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References

- Video Production in the Classroom, Instructional units by Frank Torrano, 2001.
- The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video by Tom Schroppel, 2000.
- How to Shoot a Movie & Video Story by Arthur L. Gaskill & Daniel Englander.
Check List #1

Before Shooting the Video

- Have a shot list ready.
- Check the location where you will shoot the video (pay attention to the lighting, the arrangement of the furniture/equipment, background, electrical outlets, noise,).
- Think of the background of your movie before shooting.
- Get signed release forms from the people you will videotape.
- Review team roles and responsibilities.
- Review with the students the overall plan for the project.
- If you are interviewing someone, have ready a list of questions and review them with the interviewee.
- Arrange for all the necessary equipment like VHS, Hi-8, and similar analog/digital cameras, tapes, batteries, cables, microphones).
- Blank the tapes.
- Rewind and label the tapes.
- Bring back up tapes.
- Do a test recording to make sure the camera is working.
- Make sure the external mics are working and have good batteries.
- Turn on the mics before recording.
- Turn off the time and date features.
- Record in SP mode.
- Practice movements before recording (panning, tilt up/down, high/low angles).
- Forward and rewind all new tapes to avoid future glitches.
- Let the tape ran for at least 10 seconds before start recording.
Check List #2

Shooting the Video

- Review you shot list before start shooting.
- Look for the best angles and good lighting.
- Check background noises.
- Keep the subject within the frame (leave head room).
- Rotate viewfinder, check displays in viewfinder.
- Adjust Eyepiece corrector for your eyesight.
- Get establishing shots.
- Get long shots.
- Get medium shots.
- Get close-ups.
- Get extreme close-ups.
- Get cut-aways.
- Get cut-ins.
- Let the camera record for five seconds before and after each shot.
- Remove the record tabs to avoid someone accidentally record over your tape.
- Turn off your camera and keep the tapes all together in a case.

For more information or further assistant, please contact me at: mcartspro@msn.com
Video Release

I hereby release to ____________________________________________ rights to my image, likeness and sound of my voice, as recorded on videotape ____________________________________________ for the purpose of ____________________________________________ (producer) (producer) (date) (date) (purpose of taping) (purpose of taping)

I understand that this videotape recording may be televised and thereafter the program may be otherwise available.

I hereby release any and all claims against ____________________________________________ (producer) (producer) arising in connection with the usage of my image, likeness, and voice.

I acknowledge this release is firm and final and understand that ____________________________________________ (producer) (producer) may proceed in reliance thereon.

The undersigned is this release to assist in the work of ____________________________________________ (producer) (producer) by making the image, likeness and voice of the undersigned available.

_________________________________________ (name of participant) (name of participant) (date) (date)

_________________________________________ acknowledged by the producer (date)
**Things to Consider When Creating a PowerPoint Presentation**

By Marcia Campos

- Brainstorm ideas for the project.
- Choose the topic and plan how you will tell the story (Are you using pictures? Graphs?, etc.).
- Storyboard your story (decide where you will place the graphics and/or pictures, what the text and titles will be and in which slide they will go).
- Create titles and/or graphics.
- Add Clip Art, drawings, graphs, and/or pictures to your presentation.
- Add transition (effects) and animation to pictures and/or titles.
- Add background music (audio) to the presentation.
- User-test the video to get feedback form their peers.
- Analyze the feedback and made modifications.
- Create handout pages to support your presentation.

**Tips and Tricks**

- Give a consistent look to your presentation (Use same background for all slides, same fonts, etc.).
- Make sure to choose a readable font style, color, and size.
- Do not put too much text on each slide.
- Adjust the alignment and line spacing of the text to achieve the best look and make it clearer.
- Make sure that the background does not distract the viewer from the message.
- If you are adding pictures to your presentation, lower down their resolution so that you don’t have a big PowerPoint file.
Instructions for Creating a Side Show named “My Life Story”
By Paul Van Stavern

1. Click on the colored apple; drag down to applications; drag rights and down to MS PowerPoint.
2. Click on a layout with ClipArt (the cartoon of a man’s face.) Click OK.
3. Type in the title bar: “My Life Story”.
4. (Click on File, drag to Save As. Type “My Life Story; click OK. (Only do this the first day!)
5. Click on Insert and drag to New Slide.
6. Select a layout with clipart and click OK.
7. Type “My Childhood” in the title bar. DO NOT “SAVE AS”! Why?
8. All seven slides are inside one document.

Now repeat steps 5, 6, and 7. The difference is a new title for each slide. DO NOT “SAVE AS”!

Slide 3: My Teens.
Slide 4: My First Months in the U.S.
Slide 5: My Current Job.
Slide 6: My Free Time Activities.
Slide 7: My Plans for the Future.

Later you can go back and work on each slide. You can see all of the slides at the same time if you are in Slide Sorter View. Double-click any slide to go to Normal View and work on it.

Suggestions: If you want to, you can have more slides in your show. Some students may insert slides about their children or grandchildren, for example.
Peer Evaluation
By Paul Van Stavern

Presenter: ____________________________________________
Topic: ________________________________________________

Key Words:

1- 4-
2- 5-
3- 6-

Checklist

1- Were the slides in a logical sequence? Yes No
2- Were the titles interesting? Yes No
3- Did the images go well with the text? Yes No
4- Did the presenter only read the slides? Yes No
5- Did the presenter summarize information or say things that were not on the slides? Yes No

Write some short notes about the presentation. (What did you like? Why did you like it? What could they do to make it better?)