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

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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 from their peers.
- analyze the feedback and made modifications.
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).
- Normally you want the light to come from behind you.
- Don’t record directly from the sun. It might damage the camera.
- If the location is too noisy, you might 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 like:
- 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 (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>
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</table>

References

- Video Production in the Classroom, Instructional units by Frank Torrano, 2001.
- The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video by Tom Schroeppel, 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 your shot list before starting 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 recording over your tape.
- Turn off your camera and keep the tapes all together in a case.

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

I hereby release to __________________________________ rights to my image, likeness and sound of my voice, as recorded on videotape ___________________________ (producer) (date) for the purpose of ___________________________ (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) arising in connection with the usage of my image, likeness, and voice.

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

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

_________________________________________  __________________________________
(name of participant)                      (date)

_________________________________________  __________________________________
(additional participant)                    (date)

_________________________________________  __________________________________
(additional participant)                    (date)

_________________________________________  __________________________________
acknowledged by the producer                 (date)