
6:1 Storyboards

Storyboarding is the process of planning a video by drawing simple pictures of the desired shot or writing a description of the shot, writing the audio or a description of the audio and an approximate time each sequence will last.

Besides scriptwriting, this is one of the most important parts of the pre-production phase.

This is the second phase of a production. The first phase is writing a script!

This will eliminate time consuming mistakes and guesswork. Revised storyboards also cut down on editing time.

It is essential to produce a storyboard or a map of your project so everyone will know what is going on.

Steps to create a successful storyboard:

- Keep it simple. Minor details aren't important at this point.
- In the *video section*, draw or write a description of the actual shot.
State the kind(s) of shots you plan to use-LS, CU, MS, BS, ECU, LA, HA, other.
- In the *audio section*, indicate the part of the package that you intend to use-SU, SB, VO.

SU stands for stand up. This is when the reporter is seen on camera and typically, a medium shot is used. Only 1 stand up should be used in a story (package).

VO stands for voice over. This is when the reporter is heard but not seen. Other video footage or graphics will be seen instead.

SB stands for sound bite. This is a 5-30 second clip of someone speaking on camera. Most of the time, it is a portion of an interview that has previously been conducted.

- Use the *approximate time section* to time the audio. Be sure you tape shots longer than the audio. Break up the scenes if the audio is too long.
- Use the *taping location section* to inform the teacher and group members where the scene will be shot.
- Consider points of view. Sound bites, when available, make the story more interesting to the audience. When storyboarding a sound bite, write the first 3 words and the last 3 words of the bite that you plan to use. (The entire sound bite should be written into your script.)
- Indicate movements (pan, zoom, tilt) with arrows or explain.
- If music is desired, it should be written in the audio section.
- If graphics are to be used, they should be written in the video section.
- If transitions between scenes are to be used, they should be indicated in the video section on the line between scenes.

The standard transitions used are a mix (when one scene dissolves into another) and a wipe (a transition in a pre-determined pattern). Ones you will actually use in projects will be determined by what is available on your editing systems.

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- Think about what shots will look like from scene to scene. If one scene ends with a MS of an actor, the next scene cannot begin with the actor in another location. It will look like a jump cut! Use cutaway shots if needed. These are shots that relate to the scene.
- Use a variety of shots.
- Consider length of shots. The average length of a shot is 5-10 seconds. Anything longer than that becomes boring to the audience, especially if there is not movement.
- Draw a line between scenes for easier reading.

Leave storyboards in the period folder.

Please do not take them home.

If you are absent, it delays production for the entire group.

This is one style of storyboard that is used:

Scene 1 drawn	Scene 2 drawn	Scene 3 drawn
Audio for each scene is written on the lines.		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Another style of storyboard is on the page that follows and is the one that will be used in class most of the time. We'll use it to create a sample storyboard.

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

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Project Title _____

Students Involved _____

In audio section include: VO SU SB

In video section, include shot you are planning to use. Describe the shot.
Indicate transitions and music.

Location **Video** **Audio** **Approx. Time**

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Now let's practice creating a storyboard.

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

The audio below is what we will use for the script. Although incomplete, you'll get the picture!

What will the video look like?

SCRIPT:

Homework...projects...weekly test...standardized tests...extracurricular activities...and a social life...with all these, it's no wonder many high school students feel pressed for time.

But, time management is not a subject typically taught in high schools.

By the 9th grade year, if a student hasn't learned the art of "handling the clock" effectively it's just a matter of time before disaster will strike.

Mr. Smart, author of "It's Your Time Use it Wisely", has some suggestions for those of you that are less-proficient in time management. SB: "Keep a journal for a week. Log everything you do and when you do it. Keep track of study time, play time and time spent sleeping. After the week is up, review your journal. Look for any time that is wasted....."

Remember that "SB" in a script and in a storyboard stands for sound bite. It is a portion of an interview!