



How to Film a Movie Clip

Kids Eye View Series



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Topic

Creating a Movie Clip

(Companion to “Around the World: Ocean Technology Curriculum”)

Grade/Subject/Level

K-12

Time

Unlimited

Objectives

- Kids will be introduced to digital storytelling
- Kids will participate in filming, interviewing and hosting
- Kids will introduce local wildlife and conservation issues



Materials

Example Video <http://vimeo.com/8177268>

Video: How-To Use the GoPro (by Open Road Productions)

If available, how to use other simple video mini-camera

Paper

Pencil

Ruler

Vocabulary (words underlined throughout lesson)

Extreme long shot

Actor

Long shot

Host

Medium long shot

Extras or Cast

Medium shot

Medium close up

Close up

Extreme close up

Script/“Vision”

Intended audience

Voice-over

Storyboard

Camera person

Producer

Director

Springboard



- Explain to the kids that they will be movie producers for the day
- Show the example clip to the group, pausing to discuss technique
 - <http://vimeo.com/8177268>
 - Notice the camera is not shaky.
 - How did they express their message?
 - Long shot of people cleaning the beach
 - Medium long shots of people cleaning
 - Host tells you where they are and what they are doing
 - Close up of tiny plastics and crabs eating
 - Medium shot of plastics on the beach
- Explain the steps to making a movie clip
 - Organization: concept, story, script, crew, cast, set
 - Execution: film
 - (Pass around the camera and explain its operation (refer to “How to Use a GoPro” video; Draw the camera’s basic plan and explain its use)
 - Review your work: watch the clip.
 - Does it make sense?
 - Does it get your message across?
 - Can you hear everyone?



Topic Outline and Teacher Activities

1. Get Organized

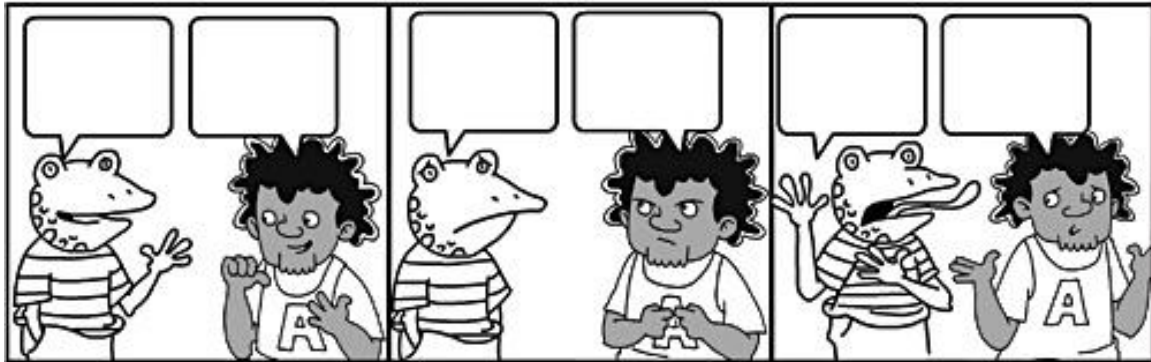
Brainstorm: Break students into small groups to discuss the following questions and record their answers:

- What message do we want to get across in this clip?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Why are we creating this clip? What is the goal for our viewers?
- How can we *creatively* express this message? Who will be on camera? Will it be an interview, a host talking about something or will we just show a natural area and do a voice-over?
- Where should we film the clip? (think about background, props, etc.)

Define Your Objective: Lead a class discussion about the kids’ answers to the previous questions and prioritize topic ideas. Then pick one.

- Answer the Who, What, When, Where and Why.
Write an Outline.
Transfer outline to storyboard
- Think of it like a comic strip (use examples below as practice, then create your own by drawing boxes, then pictures to represent the scene)

Draw a simple storyboard of how you want the scenes to follow each other...stick figures are fine, but your best artists can make the boards more fun to view.



Two-shot Medium

Same

Same

Med. Shot Captain

Close Up Waves

Profile Captain Medium



TIMECOWBOY

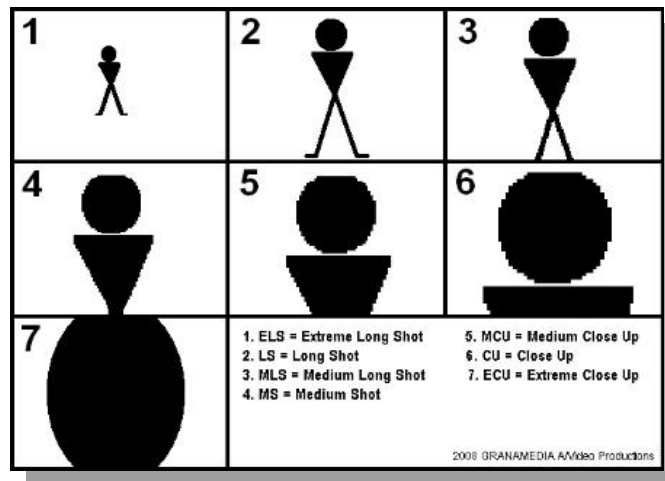
ELS

Med. Shot Captain

Parchment with fish

- Write a script (if necessary)
- Explain the groups: Crew (camera man, producer, director, prop set up, background set up), Cast (actors, hosts), Set
- Let kids decide which aspect they are most interested in, then form groups
 - Crew will practice using the camera, experimenting with lighting, etc.
 - Cast will practice their lines
 - Set will decide where to film and create scenery and props (if needed)

2. Frame the Shot



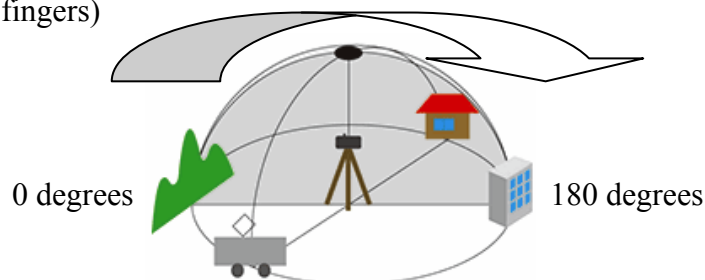
- Remember with GoPro cameras you have to be very close to the subject. Try filming a couple short interviews then watching to be sure you have the distance right
- Hold the camera steady (any swift movement will make the viewer sick!)

3. Check Lighting & Sound

- Again film a short interview then watch to check for shadows and volume. With GoPros, you may have to change the back casing, or take it out of the case to get better sound for interviews (remember to be very careful, if you take them out of the case, they are no longer water-proof or shatter-proof!)

4. Shoot

- Things to keep in mind before you shoot:
 - Be creative
 - Speak clearly and slowly
 - Be sure to restate the question in an interview (your best clip may cut out the interviewer's voice and show only the person answering)
 - Camera person keep your hand steady while filming
 - Everything within 180° of the camera will show up (camera person watch your fingers)



- Set up your props and execute your plan:

The following from mediaed.org.uk

Shoot at least ten seconds of each shot (count “one second, two seconds etc.” or watch the counter in the camera viewfinder.) For drama or acted scenes, it’s best to follow a drill:

Director: “Camera set?”

Camera operator checks that the shot is framed properly and everything is ready to go.

Camera operator: “Camera set”

Director: “Quiet please.”

Check everything’s quiet then say...

Director: “Roll camera”

Camera operator starts the camera and checks that it actually is recording.

Camera operator: “Speed” (signifying that camera is full speed)

Director waits five seconds then signals to the actors or shouts “Action!”

The actors do the scene.

The Director waits five seconds.

Director: “Cut”

The camera operator stops recording.

The production assistant makes a record of the scene.

5. Shoot Again

- If you’re not sure the take was good, film it again from where you left off

6. Review

- Watch the clip, take notes or discuss what looked good and what didn’t
- Can you hear everyone?
- Does it make sense to the viewer?
- Does it get your message across?
- If not, reorganize and plan another take
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7. Shoot Again (refer to #4)

Student Participation—Guided Practice

- During the springboard, pass around a camera to let students practice pressing the buttons.
- Guide discussions about movie clip objectives

Student Participation—Independent Practice

- Groups will work together to brainstorm then individuals will practice either using the camera, saying their lines or creating the set

Accommodations

- Provide transcript for students with hearing impairments
- Allow kids with any physical limitations to be part of the cast

Closure

Watch your clips, choose the best then submit via DropBox

