



LESSON PLAN

Level: Grades 1 to 6

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Teaching TV - Film Production: Who Does What?



This lesson is part of USE, UNDERSTAND & CREATE: A Digital Literacy Framework for Canadian Schools:
<http://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/digital-literacy-framework>.

Overview

This lesson is one of a five-part unit that provides teachers with ideas for teaching TV in the elementary classroom. In this lesson, students look at the equipment used to produce television and film, and learn about the members of the film production team and their duties.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

- a working knowledge of the operation and purpose of selected media equipment
- beginning ability to operate some media equipment
- beginning appreciation of the need for handling media equipment carefully
- awareness of the many jobs in film and television work

Preparation and Materials

- Photocopy *The Film Production Team* handout
- Video equipment, television, computers with video editing software
- Depending on the tools you are using, refer to one of the following tutorials:
 - ⇒ iMovie for iOS (Mac): <https://www.apple.com/ca/support/ios/imovie/>
<http://computers.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-create-a-movie-from-start-to-finish-with-imovie--mac-59638>
 - ⇒ iMovie for iPad: <https://www.apple.com/ca/support/mac-apps/imovie/>
<http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/how-to/photo-video/beginners-guide-imovie-for-ipad-3504907/>
 - ⇒ Movie Maker: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows-vista/getting-started-with-windows-movie-maker>
<http://library.albany.edu/libdru/imc/pdf/WindowsMovieMaker.pdf>



Procedure

Introduction

The key idea of this lesson is to reinforce that a number of different individuals and a variety of equipment are involved in making television products. People have specific jobs and use specific tools on every TV show.

In this lesson, students will learn about these jobs and tools by producing a television show.

The following activities help students become aware of the many people behind film and television productions:

- *The Film Production Team* handout is a good starting point for students to discuss the film and television industry.

Out of School Experience

- If possible, arrange for a tour of a local TV station.
- Go prepared with a purpose, and specific questions you want answers to.
- Follow up with extensive discussion. Small groups can make a diagram of a stage set, including equipment and people.

Looking at the Credits

View the credits at the end of a program. Count the credits. Identify some of the TV roles from the credits.

Experts

- To help students understand the equipment that's used in film and television, arrange for a visit from a professional to demonstrate and explain a piece of equipment.
- Allow students to experiment under supervision, become expert and demonstrate to others the use of TV equipment.

At the Library

- Research roles and equipment. Contribute a page about a role or piece of equipment for a cooperative picture dictionary or file.

Make a Video

- Using video cameras or other devices (such as phones or tablets) with video capability, have students film an event or occasion at the school, such as an assembly, a school play or participation in a nationwide event.



- Prior to filming, assemble materials, create a rough schedule and rehearse so everyone knows what will take place.
- After completion students write accompanying narrative.
- Edit the student video into a finished product with editing software (see Preparation and Materials). Depending on your students' age and ability you may have students complete this task.
- Show finished product to rest of the school.

Evaluation

Evaluation can be based on explanations of the more obvious TV production roles; explanations of the more obvious pieces of TV equipment; predictions about the type of equipment needed for a TV production; participation in a role or task.



The Film Production Team

It takes a huge number of people to put together a feature or documentary film or a television show. From the director down to the best boy, everyone has an important role to play. Let's take a look at the film production team.

Pre-Production



- **The Writer** writes the script, commentary and dialogue.
- **The Producer** raises the money and is responsible for the overall production.

Production

- **The Director** interprets the script or proposal into film, and directs actors and production crew through the production manager and assistant director.
- **The Cinematographer** (or Director of Photography) sets up shots according to the wishes of the director.
- **The Production Manager** draws up the budgets and schedules, and manages them for the duration of the shoot.
- **The Assistant Director** maintains order on the set, and makes sure actors are present when needed.
- **The Line Producer** coordinates all financial and scheduling aspects of the shooting phase of the production.
- **The Composer** composes the theme and music for the film.
- **The Narrator** is the off-camera voice of the film.
- **The Assistant Camera** sets up the camera, keeps it clean, loads film, operates the clapper board and keeps the camera report sheet.
- **The Gaffer** places the lights where directed.
- **The Best Boy** assists the Gaffer and positions the cables.
- **The Grip** moves equipment, builds scaffold, lays track.
- **The Boom Operator** manoeuvres microphones.
- **The Sound Recorder** records sounds and directs the boom operator.



Post-Production

- **The Sound Editor** synchronizes the sound track with the visuals, and cuts in sound effects, music and narration.
- **The Sound Mixer** brings together all the individual sound tracks, combining them into one cohesive master track.
- **The Picture Editor** arranges the shots together into the final form, according to the director's vision of the film.



Other people not listed here are equally important::

- **The Art Director** creates the look of the film through the use of sets, lighting, costumes and props; and works with the Set Designer to achieve the final look.
- **The Special Effects Designer** creates the spectacular stunts and effects that look so real onscreen.
- **The Makeup Artist** can completely change the way an actor looks.
- **The Costume Designer** creates the clothing the actors wear.

Next time you watch a movie, pay close attention to the closing credits and see if we've left anyone out.

