

The Silent Video: Assignment

For: Groups of Four or Five

Difficulty: Advanced

Objective

Upon completion of this lesson, students will know how to plan, shoot, and edit a short silent video that tells a simple story. They will also understand the concept of a “focus statement”.

Points to emphasize

- Teamwork is important.
- Planning the video shot by shot will make editing the final project very simple.
- It is important to stay on-topic, so pay attention to the focus statement.

Equipment: One camera, tripod, and editing station per group

ASSIGNMENT

Teams will be given a simple “focus statement” to guide them as they shoot and edit a 60-second silent video. They may be creative in their approach, but in the end, the focus statement should be realized in the final product.

The following are NOT allowed:

- Sound in the final edited piece
- Digital transitions or special effects of any kind
- Graphics (credits, captions, titles, etc.)

Each story is edited in a “cuts-only” style with no transitions added. The assignment emphasizes basic storytelling, where the visuals tell us everything we need to know.

Additional Requirements:

- Each member of the team must appear in the video at some point
- Teams may not make signs or write messages on the board to help tell their story
- Only FIVE MINUTES of raw footage may be shot for this assignment

Examples of focus statements to provide:

- Quenching thirst at school is easy.



- It's so hard to find a quiet place to study.
- Pat hated school lunches.
- The picnic was going great until an angry bee came along.
- Kris despises milk.
- Uh oh. Someone in the trio is singing off-key.
- You forgot to put on deodorant again!

The Silent Video: Grading Rubric

The Big Picture:

The point of this assignment is for students to use visuals to tell a story based on the focus statement.

Evaluation	Fail	Pass	Note
<i>The story has good pacing to keep interest</i>			
<i>Includes sequences (wide/medium/tight) and different angles</i>			
<i>Story stays focused</i>			
<i>Tells a story; clear beginning, middle, and end</i>			
<i>All assignment requirements are met</i>			