

Digital Media Studio

60 Second Pilot Project

The goal of this project is for you to practice story crafting and shot planning, get familiar with the basics of cinematography and film editing, and create your first pitch for a segment that could air on our show. This video will not necessarily appear on the show (though some or all of it *could* if you are comfortable with it). It is meant to be an example of what a full-length segment would look like.

You will write and film a 60 second story-focused segment. This video can be about whatever you want, but it must be a scripted story following the three-act structure we talk about in class. If you have an idea for a segment that is NOT scripted, that's great! But for this pilot, you will write out a scripted version that gives an example of how the segment might work.

Everyone must film, edit, and submit their own pilot, but I highly encourage you to appear in each other's films.

You will not be graded on the *quality* of your work, just on the timely completion of a video that fulfills the assignment requirements. I encourage you to be ambitious, even if you are not 100% comfortable with the technology.

Videos that do not meet the requirements of the assignment will need to be resubmitted with revisions to count as complete.

Project Structure

We will work on these films during the first few weeks of class, with different pieces due each week.

Due in Week 2 - Draft Treatment

Using the [Treatment Template](#), write up an introduction to your film idea. You must complete all sections of the template, but your idea does not need to be fully finalized. We will spend some time in class reading each other's treatments and working together to improve them before they are finalized.

Due in Week 3 - Draft Script

Using the [Screenplay Template](#), write a draft script for your film. If you use the formatting correctly, one page equals roughly one minute. You must come to class with a script, but it does

not need to be fully finalized. We will spend some time in class reading each other's scripts and working together to improve them before they are finalized.

Due in Week 4 - 60 Second Pilot

You will then film, edit, and submit an exactly one-minute pilot that:

- ☐ Is filmed by you. You *may* incorporate "found" footage or clips, but the majority of the video must be your own camera work.
- ☐ Tells a complete story using the three-act structure (Setup, Build, Payoff)
- ☐ Is composed of multiple shots (not one minute of unedited footage).
- ☐ Includes some form of edited audio (music, voiceover, sound effects, etc.).
- ☐ Includes multiple types of camera shots (closeups, mid shots, long shots, low-angle, eye-level, etc.).
- ☐ Includes at least one title or graphic overlay.
- ☐ Is rendered in landscape orientation, 1920x1080 resolution (unless you have a good story reason not to)
- ☐ Is uploaded to the [class Google Drive](#) with a filename including your name and the segment title by the time I check it on Monday morning.
- ☐ Incorporates any feedback I've given on your drafts

Due in Week 5 - Upload (with edits if necessary) and caption

All films will be uploaded to YouTube and captioned. Make sure to:

- ☐ Set privacy to "Unlisted" (only available to people with the link)
- ☐ Clean up the auto-captioned subtitles so that they are accurate and punctuated correctly
- ☐ Incorporate any feedback I've given on your submitted film

Examples

Here are some examples from past years:

[Basement Kitchen Cooking](#)

[Sleepytime Radio Hour](#)

The below are all longer than 1 minute, but give you an example of the kinds of stories and segments that may be possible.

[AWKWARD Black Girl](#)

[Laser Fart](#)

[Adam Ruins Everything](#)

[Billy on the Street](#) - this is an example of an unscripted segment - if you want to film a pilot for a segment like this, it would need to be scripted and staged

Project Resources

- I recommend scheduling a [Basic Film Editing tutorial with the DKC](#) if you have never used video editing software before (or need a refresher). You may find the [Video Editing guides at dkc.umw.edu](#) helpful (especially the Getting Started guide)
- There are a number of books in the HCC Multimedia Lab on the subject of filmmaking, editing, and camera work (you can read them there, or check them out from the HCC Info Desk). I mention a number of them in the Recommended Texts section of the syllabus.
- Editing software is available in the HCC Multimedia lab (and all Macs come with iMovie).
- Cameras, tripods, and audio recorders are available for checkout at the [HCC Info Desk](#).
- Ask your classmates for help! Don't do each other's work, but tips, recommendations, starring in each other's films, and sharing ideas is highly encouraged.
- Message me if you have any questions or run into a roadblock.