Storyboarding

What is Storyboarding?

A storyboard is a pictorial representation of the intended shots and cuts in a film sequence. The aim of a storyboard is to create a narrative flow, to show what the sequence will look like.

Captions indicate the type of cut/editing, the camera angle, short or significant dialogue and any important notes. A storyboard should be mainly images, not text.

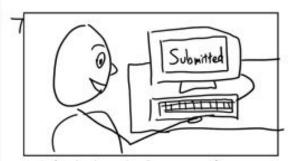




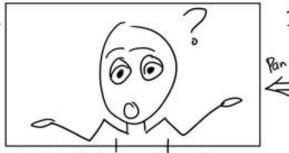
Establishing shot of classroom. One student snoring. One sits up in alarm over assignment.



Moment of clarity. "Aha!" Ding or chimes; lightbulb moment.



Submitting via Coursework. Fade out as if ending.



Student feels overwhelmed. Voiceover: "I've never done this!" Camera pans slowly to make space.



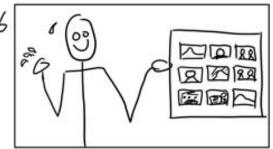
Working in a dark dorm room. Sounds of clock ticking and pencil scratching on paper.



Back to the classroom. Keep as similar as possible to original. "Elaborate on your storyboards!"



Ideas surrounded by blurry thought bubble. Brainstorm may also be video montage surrounded by blurry frame.



Proudly shows off finished storyboard. Wipes sweat off brow. Victory music. Zoom in on storyboard.



Back to the drawing board. Looking haggard but determined. Fade out.

Karen J Lloyd

Karen, from Canada, is a professional storyboard artist and a professor at the Vancouver Film School.

Over the years, she has worked as a storyboard artist at Cine-Groupe, NHX Media, Studio B Productions, Rainmaker Entertainment Inc. and several other production companies. She maintains that "The most important part of a storyboard is communication, not drawing".

Here is a link to her blog, which is all about storyboards! http://karenjlloyd.com/blog/



Matthew Jones

Television script editor for Red Productions, Matthew brings a different perspective on storyboards, as someone else part of the production team:



"In a production meeting, a picture really is worth a thousand words. You can script a sequence in words as cleverly as you like, and there will always be some misunderstanding. But if you use storyboards, it's so much easier to communicate your visual and dramatic ideas."

When Are Storyboards Used?

Pre-production

- creating a plan that everyone can work from
- getting down ideas
- planning how to get "the look"



Production

- everyone has a storyboard, everyone on the same page
 - o knowing what is required, what is happening, how it all fits together
- storyboards help actors give a more convincing performance, as they know what the narrative is meant to look like

Post-production

- visual reminder of what has been filmed
- helpful to editors
- shows what the original intentions are, team can see what has been changed.

Elements of a storyboard frame

Every cell should contain certain elements...

