

# Introductory Video Activities

Classes for primary and secondary schools

Chrysalis Films

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Welcome to the world of filmmaking! Chrysalis Films offers classes that encourage creativity and teach techniques of the filmmaking process. Many times we have seen students eagerly work together for weeks, to finally to see their work, and their ideas projected on the big screen. The video instruction we offer has proven to be powerful learning experience as well as a boost to self-esteem.

We offer these classes to primary and secondary educators who would like to supplement their curricula. They can be inserted into free periods during normal school session, scheduled as after school activities or scheduled as night classes,. Class sessions can be held on a weekly basis, or clustered together as more intensive experience and are often customized to meet specific school needs. We have had particular success working with disabled students.

Chrysalis Films supplies instructor(s), one complete camera setup, an editing system, and video projection equipment. Often, schools and students have equipment such as cameras and computers can be used. Arrangements can be made to provide additional equipment.

## Introductory Classes

### **Making a Movie**

Children grades 2-6 make a movie

### **Introduction To Visual Story Telling**

Students learn and practice filmmaking techniques

### **Producing a Narrative Video**

Students make a class movie

### **The World of Editing**

Participants learn and practice editing techniques

## **Making a Movie**

Grade 2-6

Students make up stories, and become video stars. Camera control and editing are handled by Chrysalis Films staff. Students will develop a simple story and script. Improvisation may be encouraged in actual filming. We gather our props, costumes and background from class members. This class can even be conducted in a single session!

1 – 5 sessions

## **Introduction To Visual Story Telling**

Grade 5 to adult

At each session, students create simple stories to practice that week's lesson on some technical aspect of video production. In-camera editing is used, allowing students to work quickly and show their "mini films" at the end of class.

12 classes of 1.5 to 2 hours each.

### Session

1	Non-Verbal Communication	How to tell a story without dialog
2	Line of communication	Experiment with the line of communication.
3	Edits	Change angle, size. Cutting on action
4	Field of focus	Experimentation with three actions which influence field of focus, distance from camera, lens size, and aperture.
5	Effects	Use of "old fashioned" ways of achieving

6	Manual camera control	special effects Mirrors and glass, back projection Practice manual camera setup: focus, exposure, white balance, audio level etc.
7	Lighting	3 point lighting, soft and hard lights, background lighting, effect lighting
8	Audio	Proximity effect of mics: inverse square law, different kinds of mics, hiding mics, when to use shotgun
9-12	Field trips	Students use techniques learned make videos on location

## Producing a Narrative Video

Grade 5-adult

This class gives students the opportunity to develop a narrative video. Focus is placed on idea brainstorming, coming to consensus, scripting, and shooting the story. It can be done with instructor editing or student editing. Instructor takes role of facilitator/director, advising and giving honest feedback during the process. The entire class creates a single film. Teachers in other subjects such as history, and creative writing may choose to allot class time for script and story development.

8 –13 1 hr class sessions

6 –10 1 hr assignments for script and story development

2 x 2 hr videotaping sessions

5 hrs edit time

Session		
1	Get acquainted	In this session, we just talk about ourselves, our backgrounds, expectations and discuss simple story ideas. Students practice reflective listening, positive feedback, and building consensus
2	Beginning story development	Pass around story ideas, and brainstorm
3	Choose a story	Choose a story and start development. scripting assignments
4	Story development	Continue with story, discuss scripts from previous week, assign script parts to small groups
5	Final story discussion	Arrive at a complete story by the end of class meeting. Scripting assignments Character assignments, and Camera crew assignments.
6	Character development	Assemble script, read through, discuss problems, assign script polish
7	Final read through	Practice blocking, location scout, walk through
8	Final rehearsal	Finish walk through, read through, practice off book.
9	Shoot	Extended class, shooting
10	Shoot	Extended class, shooting
11	Edit	Out of class edit
12	Premiere	Showing of story, friends invited, refreshments shared
13	Discussion	What worked? What did not work, full review

## The World of Editing

Grade 5-adult

This class explores editing technique. In each meeting, students learn about and practice a technique. Part of each class will be reserved to look at footage from current or previous week. Instructor shows examples of editing technique in feature films.

10 x 1.5 hour class sessions, including 45 minutes of lecture demo and 45 minutes of scene videotaping

10 x 2 hr editing sessions.

### Session

1	Line of communication	How to follow it, how to change it
2	Change the shot	Vary angle, size of frame, and lens size
3	Length of edit	Long vs. short take
4	Seamless cutting	Jump cuts, cut on the action
5	Montage	Use of montage, when appropriate, telling a story
6	Interview techniques	How to piece together an interview without distracting jump cuts
7	Experimental	Class discusses ways that editing can influence the story
8-10	3 sessions of group projects	Students plan shoot and edit scenes that will challenge their editing skills