

Intro to Documentary Video Production

Assignment 4

A-roll + B-roll=story

The widget maker interview

Time to take what you have learned so far about sequencing and shot selection and produce a short video story about someone that does something interesting. It could be an artist, or someone that has an interesting job. How about a friend that has a cool hobby or sport? Just make sure to choose someone that does something visual.

There are three components to this assignment.

- Shoot a formal interview with your subject.
- Shoot enough b-roll video that relates to what the subject talked about to cover your a-roll (interview) edits
- Edit your video into an interesting narrative.

How to:

Planning is key here. Schedule with your subject. Make sure you have the equipment reserved. Pre-interview if possible to learn something about your subject.

A-roll

Make sure you do your interview in a quiet room, Use side window light and mic the subject with a wireless lav mic if possible. Use a tripod for the camera. Check the audio levels before the start of the interview. White balance. Do a basic interview of no more than ten or so minutes. Be prepared with questions to ask, but also ask stuff that comes with the flow of your conversation. Make sure you ask the “Why do you do what you do” question. Listen for b-roll ideas and write them down if possible.

B-roll

Shoot video of subject doing what they do. Try and be creative. Remember to shoot lots of wide, medium, tight, tight, tight shots. Action reaction. Look for moments and for natural sounds opportunities. Shoot twice as much b-roll than you think you’ll need. Try and shoot things the subject talked about.

If you do a good job on this assignment, I will then give you the ok to start shooting your final documentary project.

