



The Sheffield Sixth Form – Media Studies Pre-induction Summer Project

Welcome

Welcome to the A Level Media Studies Pre-induction Summer Project. We very much look forward to welcoming you in September and as part of your preparation we have developed this booklet.

This work pack is designed to provide 15 hours of work (5 hours a week over 3 weeks) to prepare you for studying A Level Media Studies.

We currently have a Film and Media Extra-Curricular club. We try to pick different films, chosen by all the members of the class. The films are varied in genre (comedy; drama; family drama) and cover different topics (coming-of-age; social issues). We will explore more genres and topics. So far Ferris Bueller's Day Off; Contagion; Beautiful Boy...

Please bring your completed task with you during your first week of teaching.

Good luck!

A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES TASKS



SHOT TYPES

When making a visual media product, whether it is a film, an advert, or a poster, we use a variety of “shots”: they are the building block of a visual media product, and with their different sizes, angles, and how they are connected to one another (editing), or placed within a picture or photograph (composition) they create emotions and convey ideas. Being able to understand shot types is at the foundation of understanding visual media products.

There are two ways to distinguish the shot types:

1. Size: the distance of the camera from its “subject”



EXTREME LONG SHOT XLS



VERY LONG SHOT VLS



LONG SHOT LS



MEDIUM LONG SHOT MLS



MID SHOT MS



MEDIUM CLOSEUP MCU



CLOSEUP CU

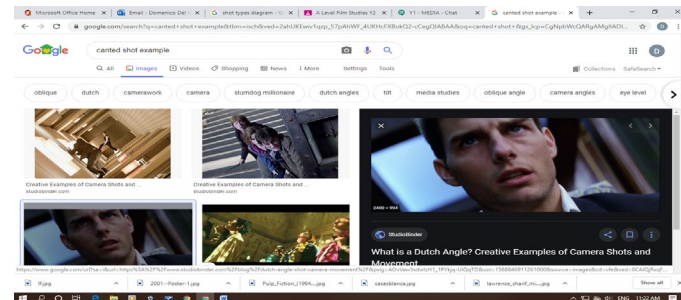
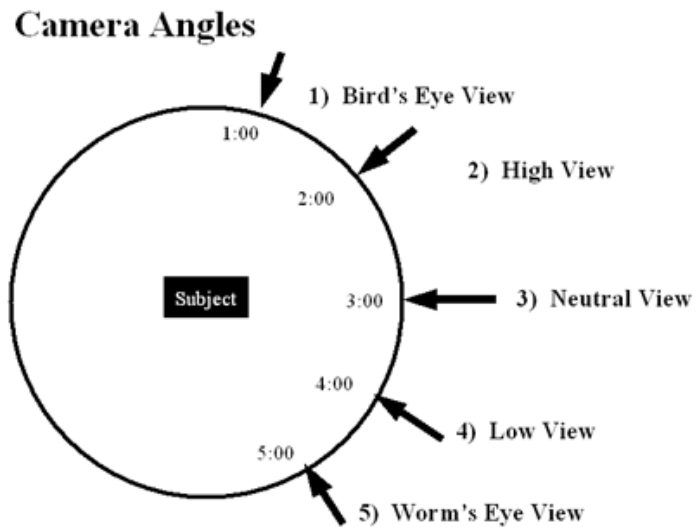


BIG CLOSEUP BCU



EXTREME CLOSEUP ECU

2. Angle: the position of the camera in relation to the “subject”



There is another angle, that when used, it makes look the image “tilted”: this is called “canted angle”, or “Dutch angle”

(from Oliver Lister's Wordpress)

TASK 1 - SIZE

Making reference to the grid in page 2, can you identify these following shots in terms of their “size”? Also, could you guess what type of feeling, or emotion they convey?



Shot size 1

Feeling:



Shot size 2

Feeling:



Shot size 3

Feeling:



Shot size 4

Feeling:



Shot size 5

Feeling:

TASK 2 – ANGLES

Making reference to the grid on page 3, can you identify these following shots in terms of their “angle”? Also, could you guess what type of feeling, or emotion they convey? One has already been done for you



Camera angle 1; Neutral; or “eye-level”

Feeling: the most common shot. It is considered to be emotionally neutral and is best used for straight, factual presentation



Camera angle 2

Feeling:



Camera angle 3

Feeling:



Camera angle 4

Feeling:



Camera angle 5

Feeling:



Camera angle 6:

Feeling:

TASK 3– A Media product for everyone

Media products are everywhere: we are surrounded by them, and we access them on a daily basis: from the printed format (**newspapers, magazines, books**) to the moving image (**films; TV programmes; adverts; music videos**). We go from **gaming** to **websites**; from **film posters** to **radio programmes**. All these are examples of media products.

Each media product listed above is aimed at a specific **target audience**, and understanding the audience helps makers of media products create the perfect product for each specific audience. Each media product has its own “**codes and conventions**” - in other words: its **rules**.

For examples, in a advert for sport gear we expect to see athletic, fit people doing sports; open-air shots; or set in a gym; edited with a very fast pace. In a poster for a horror film we expect to see a lot of black; we want it to look mysterious and scary; perhaps we want to see a hint of the monster in it.

So, what is your favourite media product? What do you “consume” the most? Is it games? Is it TV? Or is it magazines? Or is it films? Write a short essay where you discuss the following topics;

1. Talk about your favourite type of media product/s: why do you like it?
2. What are the codes and conventions (rules) of your favourite media product/s?
3. What is the target audience for your media product/s?