

Video Heptathlon

DUE MARCH 10th

This project is intended to be quick exercise to help you guys develop more technical skills in creating your shots and handling your cameras. As such this project will focus upon the formal qualities of your video and technical achievement with the hardware.

I will be looking for well composed shots, clear thoughtful color schemes, and attention to camera movement. Content will not be a focus of this project though you may certainly inform the shots with your personal interests (from your studio practice or other sources)

In this project you will be required to create five types of video shots. Each shot type should be made into its own discrete video of about 15-30s in length.

The Five Sequences:

#1) Slow zoom: a shot involving a zoom which *changes* the viewers focal subject (simply starting with a wide shot with an obvious subject and zooming in to a tight shot on a different subject within the framing of the original wide shot -or vice versa)

#2) Point of View: Shot which creates the impression that an inanimate object is looking at something. I do not want you to animate the object in this shot! you must create this impression through the movement of the camera, the placement of the camera, and the way you cut the sequence.

#3) Dolly Shot: A shot where you smoothly follow the movement of you video subject through a space (this means not a handheld shot - you'll have to rig some sort of dolly to accomplish the shot - you could use a rolling chair, a bicycle, or a car for example) you may need to recruit a friend to push you around for this shot.

#4) Depth of Field: A shot which has a distinct depth of field (foreground - subject - in focus, background out of focus, or vice versa). The shot should alternate between foreground and background focus.

#5) Simple Action: A short sequence describing a person performing a simple activity (dialing a phone, boiling water, playing an instrument, etc.). The sequence must have at least three distinct types of shots, for example you could have a close shot of a hand pulling a cell phone out of a pocket, then a very tight close shot of the fingers pushing buttons, then cut to a mid or long shot as the figure puts to phone to her ear.

I do not want any music used for this project, natural sound only. That being said I DO NOT want to hear you operating the camera. It is ok for you to dub Foley sounds in the video.

The five shots will be turned in to me at the beginning of class mar 10th. You can either turn in each shot as a separate .mov file or if you want to turn in all the shots as one .mov file you may as long as you give each shot its own title screen which clearly labels which shot type it is.

Things to keep in mind:

- Be sure to set up the white balance before shooting - If I see yellow tinged videos for this project I will take points off
- DO NOT use the auto focus on the camcorders. If I see focus flicker caused by the camera's auto focus I will take points off.
- Think about where you are shooting, I want you to get out of your apartment and look for interesting places to create these shots. Bonus points will be given for creative and/or interesting locations.
- Give some thought to the lighting. Use this learning project as an opportunity to play with unusual or dramatic lighting situations. Bonus points will be given for cool lighting.
- Consider the color palette of your shots. Do you want lots of bright colors? How does the color of your subject relate to the color of the environment?
- If you are going to use a rolling chair or a shopping cart for your dolly shot, try to minimize the noise created by your ad-hoc dolly, and try to pick a location which has smooth floors!
- The point of view shot is easier than it sounds. For example: say your inanimate object is a troll doll. Start with a shot of the troll doll standing on a desk, then place the camcorder on the desk about where the troll doll was and then drape some of the troll doll's hair over the top of the camera lens, this second shot will instantly establish itself as being from the POV of the troll doll.
- If you do the bare minimum to simply complete the requirements of each shot you can expect to get a B. To get an A you'll have to show me that you put some thought into the formal elements of your clips and that you put some effort into setting up (lighting, location, etc.) and executing your shots.

File(s) should be turned in with the following name format:

studentlastnameFIRSTINITIALheptathlonShot#.mov
or *studentlastnameFIRSTINITIALheptathlonALL.mov*