

Still Film Exercises / FLM151

Over the next three weeks, you will be assigned three *Still Films (aka Photo-boards)* of various lengths.

Through these exercises you will demonstrate:

- Knowledge of basic film concepts
- The basics of constructing a film idea
- How to break down a script into shots
- Effective shot design and visual storytelling enhanced with *mise en scène*.

OVERVIEW

You will be telling a visual story with still frames/photographs. Extra effort should be placed on **designing** your film. Consider what it is about and how, specifically, constructive editing will make the story clear. Look at your sequence objectively and ask yourself, “Will my audience understand what I am trying to communicate?” The most common problem students encounter with this assignment is confusing storytelling due to unclear imagery. Make sure your images are both technically and narratively clear.

Before you start shooting, you should have:

1. A solid Script
2. Camera map
3. Storyboard
4. *Script appropriate* Locations
5. All necessary props and costumes
6. Camera with charged batteries and SD card
7. Tripod
8. Actors and production assistance

SPECS

There will be *one deliverable* per week to be uploaded on Moodle: a PowerPoint of the Still Film consisting of 12-20 frames (assignment dependent). Resist the impulse to “tween” shots*. Try and constructively frame each shot to advance the story.

- Final images will be B&W only.
- Cropped in Photoshop to a 16x9 aspect ratio. 1600x900 pixels is a good image size.
- While you’re at it, level your horizon, as well.
- Make adjustments to brightness and contrast as necessary.
- If a line of **dialog** is imperative to understanding the story, include it under the image.
- Deliver in PowerPoint

In addition to the story frames, please include:

1. a **title card** at the beginning with both your **film's title**, **your name**, and **assignment**.
2. a **credit frame** at the end with the names of all the people who helped you create your masterpiece.
3. a black frame at the end. (these frames are *not* part of the frame count).
- 4.

*NOTE: while "one frame per shot", is a good guideline, in some cases, you may need to use more than one frame to convey the action in a shot. This would hold true for shots which convey a major visual change, such as a push-in or pull-back, zoom, or swish pan. Also for shots which evolve through blocking, such as a "single" becoming a "3-shot". In these cases, you may use more than one frame for the shot, but make a text NOTATION at the bottom, with something like, "Shot continues" or "Frame widens to..." or "Pan right to see..."