MODULE 5

PILOT REPORTAGE

UNIT 1: FIND A STORY
UNIT 2: WRITE A TEXT
UNIT 3: TAKE PHOTOS/VIDEOS

Objectives

- To train the youth in the use of aerial photographs.

- To teach the methods of interpretation of satellite images and photo interpretation of aerial photographs by applying solid scientific knowledge.

- Create a report using journalistic methods.

- Training in the use of drones

Target group

- Young people (18-30 years old)

- Professions (journalists, bloggers, teachers and other trainers and educators, ecc)

OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge**

➢ Interpret the principles and concepts of photography and videography;

➢ plan aerial photography;

➢ select photographs and videos for various purposes;

➢ recognize the procedures for editing photos and videos

➢ Know how to find a story and create a news report

- **Skills**

➢ Ability to use and operate a drone in various circumstances and weather conditions.

➢ Application of the rules for safe flight when operating a drone

➢ Application of knowledge of aerial photography and filming

➢ Formulating a story according to journalistic principles

- **Attitudes**

➢ Develops resilience, patience, precision, perseverance, concentration, composure, and other personality traits necessary for drone operation

➢ Ensures efficient operation of the drone and learns to make quick decisions.

➢ Operates the drone responsibly so as not to jeopardize people's safety and privacy

- Method of training /learning

  ➢ Pair learning,

  ➢ Group learning

- Training material and tools needed

  ➢ Computer

  ➢ internet

  ➢ Drone

  ➢ Camera

  ➢ phone

UNIT 1 : FIND A STORY

- **Aims**

-To provide the learners with an overview of the reportage and the evolution with the Drones.

-To provide the participants with the key steps and practices basics of reportage.

• Description of the activities

➢ <u>PREPARATION</u>

The teacher can ask the students the following questions:

- What they know about DRONES, purposes of using them, etc.

- How are drones used in jobs and occupations in their country?

- How are drones transforming journalism?

- Examples from reportage in their country.

- Below you will find a link with reportage with Drones:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCPdIvXo2rU

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➤ IMPLEMENTATION

- What should a journalist consider when developing a news story:

- **Make Interviews:** the journalist uses questions to obtain information from reliable sources and verifies the accuracy of the answers;

- **To learn searching for official documents**: The journalist uses documents such as government reports, legal processes and public records to obtain information.

- Analyze documents, material on the topic being researched

- Select the information collected

- Organize the contents according to the settings defined upstream (length of service, target readership, means of communication used...)

- **Fact-checking**: the journalist verifies the accuracy of the collected information against reliable sources and official documents.

- source research also online, the use of all the research and publication tools available on the Internet, knowledge of social networks and the principles of social media management.

- **Direct observation**: the journalist directly observes events and places to describe them and provide an account of the facts.

- **Participatory journalism:** the journalist involves the public in the collection and presentation of news, through methods such as citizen journalism, social media and open questions.

- **FOLLOW-UP**

➤ Discuss with the team on the advantages of working with Drones

➤ Discuss with students if they have specific questions about the reportage.

- **Task:**

➤ Find a suitable story idea in your environment to report on.

- **Evaluation**

➤ Group evaluation in the end of the training

UNIT 2: STORYTELLING

- **Aims**

- Learning how to use elements to create a rich narrative and

- how to use drones in storytelling

- **Description of the activities**
- ➤ PREPARATION

- Working on the training material for the frontal teaching.

- Collection of current news as practical guidance

- **Preparation of the drone**

In order to prepare for the drone footage, the pilot of the drone / journalist should take a close view of the drone in order to identify in what angles should fly the drone for a safe and better visual for the people . Also, the pilot should investigate if there are any other flying objects in the air at this time to avoid crashing on these objects. The pilot should open the breifcase where the drone is safely inside to check battery levels and establish it on flying mode - testing if the drone is healthy and available to do its job. Moreover, some weather conditions (even if some drones are waterproof) may be extreme so the pilot should check if the drone could fly on a storm.

➢ IMPLEMENTATION

Frontal lesson on Creating reportage with drones

- Main steps in reportage with drones:

- 1. Identify the subject: The first thing to do is identify the subject of your story and understand what are the key information you want to communicate to your audience.

- 2. Develop a basic idea: Once you have identified your subject, develop a basic idea for your story, which will help keep you focused on the main topic.

- 3. Create an intro: The intro should grab the audience's attention and provide a general overview of the subject of the story.

- 4. Create a storyline: The storyline is the heart of your story and should present the main facts, characters and places.

- 5. Create a Climax: The climax is the high point of your story and should present the most important or emotional moment.

- 6. Create a conclusion: The conclusion should provide a coherent closure for your story and provide reflection on the main themes.

- 7. Use Editing: Use editing to create a coherent narrative flow and to highlight key moments in the story.

- 8. Review and Rework: Review and rework your narrative structure to ensure it is coherent and comprehensive, and effective in telling your story.

➢ Preparing the drone

After puting the drone inside a starting point, the pilot should start flying the drone into the air and see how it is reacting on the weather conditions which are at the time of the accident and we want to capture visual content. The pilot should slowly take the drone above the accident and capture images of the scene, but avoiding other drones, other flying objects or even broken materials that could force a drone to crash and fall into ground. After capturing the scene the drone should slowly go back into a landing point where there are no people on danger which are doing activities into the same scene, or other materials that may hurt the drone or the pilot. The drone should safely be stored into the case after the collection of all the visual content.

➢ FOLLOW-UP

• Presenting the project reportage with Drones to the group.

• Evaluation of the reportage: identifying the success factor and the points for improvement

➢ Evaluation

• self-assessment

• group evaluation

UNIT 3: TAKE PHOTOS/VIDEOS

- **Aims**

➢ Drones for reportage - Experiences of using drones

➢ Aerial Filming With Drones - Steps

➢ Post-production and video editing using footage taken with drones

- **Description of the activities**

➢ PREPARATION

The trainer prepares a PP with the following information and attractive free images: using photography/ video shooting.

➢ Physical check of the drone

➢ Battery: fully charged and secured

➢ Propellors: clean, turn smoothly and no sign of damage or vibration

➢ Frame: clean, no visible damage

➢ Motors: good working order and no debris. Check for any abnormal sound on startup

- Make sure that all the controls on the drone controller are working

  ➤ These have to be tested before flight and before gaining altitude

  ➤ Check that the GPS and RF connection is good

- Check that the camera secured and in good working order

  ➤ Camera fixed, lenses clean and clear

  ➤ Correct settings

- Ensure that all necessary documents and permits are in order (such as flight permit, insurance and license)

- Check the weather and airspace, make sure that the drone will not be flown over people or animals not involved in the video/photo shoot

- Keep a list of emergency contact numbers

➤ IMPLEMENTATION

Aerial Filming with Drones :

Step 1: Camera Equipment Required, Materials, and Tools

To fly a drone, you will need some equipment and tools. Some of the essential equipment includes a drone, a remote controller, batteries, a charger, and propellers. Other equipment that can be useful includes a carrying case or backpack to transport your drone safely. If you want to take aerial photos or videos with your drone, you will need a camera. Some drones come with built-in cameras, while others require you to attach one.

Step 2: Begin Pre-Production

Location search

Storyboard - Not an exact plan, but a rough guideline to how the video will play out.

Gear List - List the least amount of gear needed to achieve the maximum results.

Schedule - kept the time frame pretty loose with the day broken up into 2 hour blocks. Allow ample amount of time for travel and budgeted an additional 30 minutes to every step/stage. It will force you to be realistic with your expectations and goals.

Triple check the plan before scheduling the shoot date.

Step 3: Scouting Location

Preparation is key and an essential step in order to achieve maximum results with a drone. In all production situations -- time is always public enemy #1. Feeling rushed, usually leads to mistakes and missed opportunities, which is something you'll want to avoid. If you're shooting with a drone for the first time, scouting for the most desirable location and conditions will help eliminate risky/unknown situations and set you up for success.

For the shoot, we want a location that allow the airspace to fly freely to get the shot we need. Prior to the scout, you have to explore different locations on Google Maps.

You have to know that to film with a drone must be without the following distractions:

- Power Lines

- Tall buildings

- Water Source - ie lakes, rivers, oceans, reservoirs

- A safe place with limited foot and bike traffic

- Passenger Flight Paths

- Permits (Double check with your local jurisdiction for rules/regulations)

During the initial location scout some of the conditions that you will realize/discovere are the following:

- Weather/wind patterns example: calm in the morning and windier in the afternoon

- The unpredictable fog - (moisture can condense on the blades and cause electronics to malfunction)

- the conditions of the area: SAFETY

Based on your scout you will be able to pinpoint the exact location that you want to shoot at.

Step 4: Tips for Piloting a Drone / Drone Protocol

Things to consider when flying a drone for filmmaking:

Learn to fly your Drone safely

-   The pilot should always take a minute at every spot they launch from and focus on safety. Before taking off, the pilot needs to look around the airspace they intend on flying in. An effective pilot, checks for the following objects: trees, buildings, power lines, people, vehicles, etc. RO TIP: Look for a safe spot to crash if things go south. Don't fly over crowds Point Your Nose - To help with orientation we painted our Drone with 2 bright colors for orientation Orange in the front Green in the back. It's difficult to fly the heli back to your landing site if you don't know which way it's facing. Do not fly from an angle - Fly the nose pointing directly away from you. Sometimes, you can position your body as you turn your drone. Turn with it. Fly it towards you when it's coming back.

Pre Flight Equipment Check

-   Before every take off/flying away, hover your heli about 6 feet off the ground about 10-15 feet in distance in front of you. Check all your sticks: left, right, forward, backward, up, down, and yaw rotation both ways. We never fly away until we double check and make sure everything is working properly. If there are any problems/issues, we immediately land the aircraft and troubleshoot the problem.

Create a routine

-   Establishing pre-flight habits can help mitigate mistakes when on the field. Every time we take the heli out for a flight we set it up and pack it away the same way. We always repeat the same routine. Creating the same rhythm, helps us to avoid forgetting a step -- resulting in a crash and damage to our RC heli.

Breathe/Take your time

-   We learned early on that when we rush things, or allow other people (non-pilots) to rush you, disasters can happen. Accept that crashes/accidents will/can happen. Allow ample time before you launch. Double/Triple check everything. In our experience - even if we thought we nailed if the first try, we always try to repeat the same shot for added insurance. Sometimes the live feed on the monitor can be deceiving. Multiple takes ensures you have enough footage to tell a great story. So, bring enough batteries to repeat the same shot over and over and to keep the heli in the air.

Check Your Batteries

-   More accidents happen when batteries die in mid-air. It usually isn't pretty. Double check the voltage on the battery and make sure it's not dead before loading it on the drone.

Step 5: Production Day

On shoot day - arrival on location we run through the overall game plan for the day: double check the route, weather, and trail conditions. We understood that we had to navigate through various terrain and weather conditions - can be dangerous for our equipment. Crashes and accidents are inevitable, but having durable products on the field can provide an extra layer of confidence and one less thing to worry about. Once we arrive at the first spot we ran through our Drone Protocol and began shooting. We began with super easy shots and worked our way up to more difficult/riskier shots. After we looped the trail the first time - we immediately backed up our GoPro footage on the Dell Precision with the convenient SD Card reader. You repeating the area 3 - 4 times to get the A+ shots looking for. Each time reviewing the shots and applying the changes to the next section of filming. After the shoot finished - review, organized, pack gear and proceed to head back to the studio to continue the post production process.

Step 6: Post-Production / Results

Every editor/creative team has its' own unique approach to the post production process. You follow the rough storyboard as a general guideline, but you allow the footage to dictate how the story/video will go to play out. Traditionally, to achieve aerial footage requires a heli or prop plane for lower elevations - and especially difficult within the surrounding Mt. Tam/Marin Headlands area (Federal Property - No flight zone).

Post Production Tools:

* Movavi Video Editor

* Shotcut

* DaVinci Resolve

* Photoshop

* Google Photos

Production Guide:

Make sure everything is organized from the beginning and folders are labeled correctly. When you import the footage into video editing software, all the file structure and names will be mirrored! Bring all the clips into the timeline and log them that way. Select the portions you think might be usable so it's easier/quicker to see what takes work. Drone footage is really dynamic, but should be used sparingly.

PILOT REPORTAGE

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

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