

TV Studio Final Film Options

There are two options for your final film for the course.

Option#1: Fiction Film: Pure Fiction

For this film you will be creating a **SHORT FICTION FILM**. It can be a short story, scene, or act, but it should showcase a strong **SCRIPT, DIALOGUE, FILMING, EDITS and ACTING**. It should have well-conceived **turning points** which drive the **DRAMA**. Think about (and watch) some of the best of dramatic streaming television today.

Conceptual AND TECHNICAL Guidelines:

- 1. STRONG STORY IDEA.** The film that you create or idea you choose should be **a good televisual or cinematic story**. This means that it needs to be conceived with ALL of the important elements which we expect from excellent films or TV programs. Multiple camera angles, lighting, multiple audio threads, plot progression, etc. **This IS NOT a roommate film about a weekend party.**
- 2. ACTORS/ACTING/SCRIPTED.** Your film needs to be SCRIPTED with at least **TWO actors**. Your job is to DIRECT those actors to get the BEST performances that you can for the camera.
- 3. HIGH PRODUCTION VALUE. Excellent shot composition, interesting camera angles AND multiple types of shots** (establishing shots, close-ups, over-the shoulder, extreme-close-ups) and shot angles (Close-ups, Over the Shoulder shots, high angle shots, low angle shots, etc.) **ALL** of your shots need to be connected to and/or motivated by the story you are trying to tell.
- 4. AUDIO** should be **crystal clean** throughout the entire film.
- 5. Aesthetically Stylized Montage Sequences.** You should develop at least two well-edited montage **sequences** which engage the viewer and propel the story.
- 6. LIGHTING** should be **stylized** to enhance principal shots/scenes.
- 7. Titles/Graphics.** The introductory and ending titles should be professionally stylized. Same goes for any intertitles or lower 3rds.

Obviously, the content and technical issues will vary depending on which type of film you choose. However, weaving together a final film which shows the **best of your capabilities** should be the focus of your attention for this project.

DEADLINES/DUE DATES:

☑ **Due TUES, APRIL 25th: 1-2-page FILM Treatment (single-spaced),** replete with an **ENGAGING STORY OVERVIEW, idea/issue description, names/contacts and rationale for your locations, ACTORS, and your cinematic structure and/or approach for telling this story as a short film or TV piece.** Your treatment should have a shot list of sections that you will need in in WA, MS, CU and ECUs.

🔥 **DUE TUES, MAY 2ND COMPLETE PROJECT**

Option#2: Getting' Schooled – How-To LIFE HACK Films x2

We all get "schooled" at some points in our lives. This is usually a good thing. In fact, recent research suggests that learning how to do completely new things is one of the best things we can do for our overall (and long-term) mental and physical health. It frequently aids mental and physical flexibility and helps combat premature aging, narrow-mindedness, and a hardening of the categories.

Unfortunately, though, while you'd think that with all of the content that the digital WEBWorld provides, that we'd have LOADS of great "how to films" to learn from. Sadly, not. Far too often our YouTube searches lead us to readably BAD how-to films. Sloppy shooting, poor editing, crap concept, and poor progression. Sadness looms large. Tears may even fall.

But we're going to try to help correct this flow.

For your final films, your job is to create an excellent 2-part "how-to" film sequence. This includes the following steps:

1. Developing a short **INSTRUCTION FILM** which addresses how to do complex endeavors to an audience which may be learning them for the first time.
2. **Watch and Critique.** Spend some time WATCHING a series of different "how to" films in order to see what techniques are helpful, educational, entertaining and lead to actual learning.
3. **THINKing and PLANNING.** **Think** about the kinds of things a beginner would need to see and know before shooting. THEN think about how to convey those things **VISUALLY WELL** in film form. Plan your shoots and edits accordingly.
4. **MAP OUT YOUR SHOT Progressions.** You'll want to shoot a **PROGRESSION of strong footage** using **FOUR TYPES** perspectives for EACH level of instruction. These are:
 - ➔ CLOSE-UP SHOTS
 - ➔ EXTREME CLOSE-UPS
 - ➔ MEDIUM SHOTS
 - ➔ WIDE ANGLE SHOTS
5. Seek out **TECHNICAL ADVICE** from those who have expertise with the skill or skillset. They may help you conceive, shoot, and edit/re-edit.
6. **AUDIO** should be **crystal clean** throughout the entire film.
7. **Aesthetically Stylized Montage Sequences.** You should develop at least two well-edited montage **sequences** which engage the viewer and propel the story.
8. **LIGHTING** should be **stylized** to enhance principal shots/scenes.
9. **Titles/Graphics.** The introductory and ending titles should be professionally stylized. Same goes for any intertitles or lower 3rds.

DEADLINES/DUE DATES:

☑ Due TUES, APRIL 25th: **1-2-page FILM Treatment (single-spaced) and SHOT LIST**, replete with an overview of what complex skills you will represent and HOW you will sequentially break down those skill sets in both an informative and entertaining way. Your treatment should have a shot list of sections that you will need in in WA, MS, CU and ECUs.

🔥 **DUE TUES, MAY 2ND COMPLETE PROJECT**