Print Text to Video Text

Just as the preparation of an oral interpretation of text motivates thoughtful reading and careful consideration of meaning, so does the transformation of a print text to a video text. Working on your own or with a partner, you can prepare a video shooting script for a selected text. A shooting script will help you efficiently put together a video for classmates or other audiences to view. Following your presentation of the video, present comments about the choices you made and invite feedback from your audience.

Think about your audience as you select a text for a video interpretation. Your goal is to choose a short text, possibly a letter, an editorial, a poem, or an excerpt from a novel, that classmates will enjoy and think about. Since visual texts create powerful emotional meaning, you will want to select a text that you feel strongly about. You will use the words of the text combined with images to present your interpretation of the text's meaning.

Print Text to Visuals

As an alternative to the text translation from text to video, consider illustrating images that are presented in print text. Make your own drawings or find pictures (in magazines, on the Internet, etc.) that can represent three to five key parts of your print text. You can add a caption of the text being illustrated, and a sticky note to explain how your image captures that part of the text.

BEHIND THE CAMERA

When planning what to shoot, consider how the writing techniques used in the written text can be enhanced visually. Begin by reviewing camera movements and camera distance terminology:

Camera Distance

Long shot: a shot that includes most of the scene
Medium shot: a shot that reveals about half of the scene
Close-up: a shot that features a detailed view of an object or person
Extreme close-up: a shot that features minute detail of a person or object

Camera Movement

Cuts: rapid switches from one scene to another
Pan: slow movement across a scene without interruption
Zoom-in: use of the zoom lens to present a closer view
Zoom-out: use of the zoom lens to present a more complete, less-detailed view.

The shooting script on page 21 has been prepared for the poem on page 19. The shooting script will serve as a model for you.

Note that the text of the poem is incorporated in the audio section of the script. Numbers are used to show how the audio and the video work together in the presentation.

SHOOTING SCRIPT FOR "FOREIGNER"

Video	Audio
1. Long shot of deserted city street.	1. Sound effect: bottles and cans rattling in a shopping cart.
2. Slow zoom to female street person pushing a cart.	2. Single Male Voice: "Squeaky cart rattling, beer bottles tinkling, / I note the aged, ragged shuffle.
3. Close-up of overflowing garbage bin.	3. "Looking up, she captures me staring."
4. Extreme close-up of female street person's face.	4. "She glances away in shame."
5. Close-up of young man staring up.	5. "Caught ogling, I jerk my head skyward."
6. Long shot of homeless woman pushing cart.	6. "Who is her family? What happened to hope?"
7. Close-up of cell phone.	7. "I pretend to check a text message."
8. Blackout.	8. "Urgently, my Nikes race away."

Do you think that the shooting script choices for audio and video effects capture the important emotional, personal, and thematic meaning of the poem? What other choices might you have made to express the meaning? In a brief commentary, the video producer observed that the blackout at the end of the video as the final line is read conveys hopelessness and distance between the homeless woman and the observer. Do you agree?

6. TRANSFORM TEXTS