

Using Film Production to Promote Student Self Monitoring

George Plautz
English Language Institute
University of Utah
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gplautz@aoce.utah.edu

Overview

- Context of Film Production Project
- Project Description
- Overall Benefits to Students
- Self Monitoring
- Caveats
- Equipment
- Student Film Clip

Context of Project

- Dramatically Speaking class
 - High-Intermediate Listening/Speaking
 - Academic Intensive English Program
- Previous points of instruction
 - Rhythm, intonation, stress, blending/linking
 - Two-person scene performances
 - Idiom work: dialogue writing
 - Elements of drama

Film Production Project

- Goal: apply the knowledge of English stress, rhythm, etc in a short film (5 to 10 minutes)
- Steps:
 - Choose the message (proverbs)
 - Write a scenario, choose one
 - Create shooting schedule
 - Shoot film
 - Edit, add titles, special effects (Moviemaker, imovie)
 - Film Festival premieres
 - Award Oscars

Benefits to Students

- It's different
- It's relatively easy
- It fosters student buy-in
- It requires massive amounts of speaking
- It introduces students to film-making vocabulary, techniques

and....

Promotes self-monitoring

- Students prepare dialogues – focus on suprasegmentals
- During filming students are coached by “the director”
- Students can immediately reflect on their performance
- Students can re-do their performance

Caveats

- Read scripts before production
- Process is more important than the product
- Keep it simple

Equipment

- Digital is the way to go
- Moviemaker or imovie for editing

ENGLISH PROVERBS

GROUP ONE

1. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
2. A fool and his money are soon parted
3. A friend in need is a friend indeed
4. A rolling stone gathers no moss
5. A small leak can sink a great ship
6. A stitch in time saves nine
7. Absence makes the heart grow fonder
8. All's well that ends well
9. An apple a day keeps the doctor away

GROUP TWO

1. Another man's grass is always greener
2. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
3. Better late than never
4. Birds of a feather flock together
5. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched
6. Don't put all your eggs in one basket
7. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
8. Every cloud has a silver lining
9. First come, first served

GROUP THREE

1. One man's meat is another man's poison
2. Out of sight, out of mind
3. Practice what you preach
4. Still waters run deep
5. The early bird catches the worm
6. Too many cooks spoil the broth
7. Two heads are better than one
8. When the cat's away, the mice will play
9. Don't cry over spilt milk.

Movie Script Process:

Scene Breakdown for _____ (title)

Scene one: classroom, day, teacher and students, books, backpacks (classroom)
(Teacher gives pop quiz and Bad Student cheats. Teacher doesn't see.)

Scene two: outside classroom, day, Bad student and Good student (U campus)
(Good student tells Bad student that he knows that B.S. cheated.)

Dialogue writing:

Scene one: classroom, day, teacher and students, books, backpacks (Ballif classroom)

1. Students sitting in classroom waiting for teacher. (establishing shot)
2. Teacher enters classroom.

TEACHER: Good morning, students.

STUDENTS: Huh? Yeah, whatever.

TEACHER: Well! Guess what! Today we are going to have a pop quiz!

STUDENTS: No! Wait a minute!

TEACHER: Quiet! Clear your desks and take out a pencil and paper.

BAD STUDENT: Holy hell! What am I going to do? Hey, (to Good Student) you gotta help me. I didn't study at all. Let me look off your paper.

GOOD STUDENT: No way. It's your own fault if you didn't study.

BAD STUDENT: you jerk! (turns to another student) Hey, you. You'll let me look off your paper won't you?

OTHER STUDENT: Well, I...

GOOD STUDENT: Don't do it.

BAD STUDENT: You, shut up!!! Come on, let me copy and I'll give you a ride in my car.

OTHER STUDENT: Okay.

TEACHER: Everyone ready. Here we go. (passes out paper.)

Film-making vocabulary

Scene: one part of the film (usually takes place in one location)

Shot: one part of a scene – from one camera angle or location

Types of shots:

wide (very far away)

medium (closer (waist up))

two-shot (two people standing next to each other, usually medium)

over-the-shoulder (shooting one person over the shoulder of the person they are talking to)

close-up (face of a person (including shoulders up))

extreme close-up (only the face or part of it, or some object)

cover shot – the whole scene from one angle

dolly shot or pan – shot in which camera moves

establishing shot – usually first shot of a scene to show location

Take: one attempt at a shot

Director's terms:

Places: get ready for the shot,

Action: count three and start acting – when finished, freeze, count three and then...

Cut: Camera is stopped

Things to be careful of:

Bright lights from behind actors

Outside noises

Continuity

same clothes or different clothes depending on scene

same weather, lighting, time of day

It is best to change angles during action/movement

Shoot extra!!!

Fade in/Fade out – black changes to scene, scene changes to black

Dissolve – one scene changes into another

Voice-over – voice is added later – could be character's thoughts or narration

