

NARRATION EXERCISE

Filmmakers often have only partial control over the creative elements of a film. In this exercise, you will have control over the soundtrack, but not the picture. Given one minute of “edited” picture, your job will be to create a soundtrack that will make sense of and complement the pix. Through the use of narration (or other voice-over), sound effects, and music synchronized to video and then mixed with digital software, you will create a wild-sync soundtrack for your assigned picturetrack.

The visual image is usually considered the most important element in film making. What you should see in this exercise is that the soundtrack can profoundly affect a film.

GUIDELINES:

- 1) You will work in three or four-person crews.
- 2) One picturetrack will be assigned to each crew.
- 3) Picturetracks should be considered locked. NO RE-EDITING!
- 4) Video files will be provided, and may be copied onto personal drives.
- 5) Soundtracks must utilize more than one sound at a time.
- 6) You should build a minimum of four soundtracks, and probably not more than eight.
- 7) You may use original or pre-recorded sounds. Check our sound effects collection in the lab.

Basic Steps to Success:

- 1) After crews are formed, decide who will be responsible for what, and set up a timetable for the various tasks.
- 2) Log and time pix.
- 3) Write narration, test against pix, rewrite.
- 4) Lay out all sound elements on a cue-sheet.
- 5) Record all narration and other sounds; select all pre-recorded effects. (You will not be recording in the studio.)
- 6) Import your QuickTime file into Final Cut as well as the voiceover and all other sounds you have collected.
- 7) Using your cue sheet, arrange all audio tracks so that they sync appropriately with the video.
- 8) Remember—you’re not done until you set all sounds at the correct volume, and this can only be done by listening to all tracks together.