JCM 366: Television Production

News Packages

Description

You and your partner will research, write, shoot and edit two news packages. Your package must be between 1:00 and 1:30 in length and contain:

- at least one sound bite from at least one interview
- a cut-in or a cut-away shot
- B-roll footage
- a standup from the reporter.

In addition your package must contain:

- a slate with story slug, reporter and shooter’s names, and running time
- two-second video pads at the beginning and end of the package.

You will be assigned to either Position 1 (reporter) or Position 2 (photographer) for the first newpac. Partners will then switch roles and do a new story.

Purpose

These assignments will give you practice shooting, editing and working as part of a team. As a reporter you will gain experience researching a topic, interviewing and writing to the visuals. As the photographer, you will improve your shooting and editing skills, become more comfortable with the equipment, and learn to work closely with the reporter to tell a good story.

Grading

The reporter will be graded on the newsworthiness (as defined in class) of the story, how clearly written and delivered it is, the quality and appropriateness of the person being interviewed*, and their on-camera appearance (professionalism). The shooter will be evaluated on shot composition, audio levels, and technical quality of the edits.

Both members of the team will be graded on whether or not necessary shots were taped and how they flow together with the script in the editing process (It is a shared responsibility—work together!).

A typed script indicating shots and sound bites is to be turned in on the due date along with the Package-Segment Report Form.
Photographer:

C  Most shots are in focus and are stable; no more than one glitch; all mandatory components of assignment present.

B  All of the above and: good composition; audio sufficient; no glitches.

A  Excellent composition and positioning of images; no glitches in editing; audio appropriate and correctly handled. Images enhance words.

Reporter:

C  Sound bite not helpful to story or interviewee’s qualifications not made clear for the viewer; story purpose or flow line not comprehensible; not articulate on camera; not dressed appropriately for on-camera appearance.

B  Story has clear purpose and flows well for viewer; sound bite well chosen and adds to story; good on-camera appearance.

A  All of the requirements for B and: excellent story choice; articulate during voice-over and on-camera appearance.

Other:

* Do not interview your roommates or friends. Give that story to someone else. Also, do not do stories about organizations to which you belong: That is a conflict of interest.

Go all out on these two assignments. Our show, if shown over Time-Warner Cable, and has a potential audience of more than 25,000 homes; over the Internet as a stream,

A second or third interview, provided they are with people significant to the story you are telling, will improve your grades on these assignments. (For example, a story about equitable funding of athletic teams might have bites from Dr. Alan White, a coach, a female athlete, and a male athlete. Each person would only be on camera or heard for a few seconds, as they help tell the story.)

With news packages it is critical that your work is on time. As always, upload your .mov file to Quicksilver, upload your .dv file to the video server, and upload your script to Blackboard. Keep your project on your FireWire as well: You may want it later for an internship or job interview, or for your portfolio.