Movie Making - Unit 1 - Moving Pictures

Unit Focus

Students will be introduced to the fundamental mechanics of filmmaking, mastering essential camerawork and composition techniques. By creating a short silent film, students will learn to communicate without dialogue, relying purely on visual storytelling. This unit concludes with an immersive dive into the post-production editing process, where students will produce an original, individual cut from a group's collective footage. The core challenge is Idea Generation. Students must study existing models of visual language to think "outside the box" when solving narrative problems. Students are required to document how they moved from abstract concepts to a concrete storyboard, demonstrating their ability to synthesize different framing approaches to explore new possibilities for the final edit.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
Visual Arts: HS Proficient

- Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors. (VA:Cr1.1.HSI.a)
- Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art or design. (VA:Cr1.2.HSI.a)
- Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural contexts to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress. (VA:Cr3.1.HSI.a)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Idea Generation: Studying a problem, need or model (mentor text, political piece, documents, art work, etc.) to consider limitations and imagine new solutions/transformations. (POG.2.1)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Make appropriate choices as a responsible, respectful participant within a communal artistic experience
T2 Capture the feeling or emotional response which an artistic piece elicits
T3 Engage in critique to inform next steps or deepen examination of an artistic work
T4 Create works of art to personally engage in the artistic process and/or communicate meaning

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 Artists make thoughtful choices about their use of skills, technique, and style to in hopes of creating a specific response for an audience.
U2 Evaluation of an artistic work is based on analysis and interpretation of established criteria that is helpful to the artist or deepens understanding of the work.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 How does knowing more about the topic change or deepen my understanding?
Q2 How do I use what I visualize/ imagine and make it come to life?
Q3 How much freedom do I have to be creative and also work within established criteria?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 Definitions of industry terms including: Pan, Tilt, Dolly, Pedestal, Truck, and others.
K2 Filmmakers develop a visual map of their film called a storyboard

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 Identifying types of camera movement, placement, and angles
S2 Applying film precepts to a story in order to communicate meaning
S3 Editing film for clarity and continuity
S4 Operating camera equipment
S5 The process of critiquing artworks: Describe-Analyze-Interpret-Judge