

## **KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE OVIDE PROJECT**

### **Basics to be considered before starting a video project**

Make sure there are no legal restrictions in filming people (students, colleagues etc.).

Always check copyright owners (sounds, images etc. in the clip).

Make sure the sound (in the classroom) is right.

For good quality you need professionals.

If you use professionals in filming, they may, with all the equipment, disturb the authenticity of the situation.

Consider limiting the length of the video clips: you have to be prepared to edit.

Ideally, a classroom needs more cameras (one focusing the teacher, the other on a group of students)

Use a tripod.

Practise and try out everything beforehand.

If students need to be recorded, there needs to be an added value for them

Consider limiting the length of the video clips.

### **Dealing with recording**

First of all, you need at least one digital video camera but with two cameras you can get more material for editing the final product. You should also know how to use the basic functions of the camera. A camera with a good range of manual functions is preferable. Professional cameras usually have more manual functions than camcorders meant for amateurs. Video work also requires a tripod. With a good tripod head you can smoothly perform camera movements.

The planning of the video is very important. You should have an idea of what the finished product will look like. A video is made up of shots. A shot is basically from when you press record to when you stop recording when the shots get put together they make a video. It is advisable to make a shooting plan in order to get enough high quality material for the project.

Most camcorders can do almost everything automatically. All you have to do is turn them on, and press record. In most situations this is sufficient, but if you want to improve your camera work, you can learn to use manual functions, for example, for focusing and setting the correct white balance or exposure.

Zooming can be over-used. The rule of thumb is, the less you use it the better. Zooming too much is tiring and the further you zoom, the more difficult it is to keep the picture steady. It's a better idea to move the camera closer to the subject

Focusing is usually done automatically, but in some conditions it may not work properly. If you want to focus manually, zoom in as close as you can on the subject, adjust the ring until the focus is sharp and zoom out to the required framing.

All camcorder have built-in microphones, usually hi-fi stereo. These will work fine for most of the purposes. Sometimes you may need an external microphone. For example, when recording speech, the camera could be at the back of the room and a mic mounted on the pedestal at the front of the room. Many times you can get better quality audio with an external microphone.

Sometimes the best idea for recording is to turn to professionals. But even in this case, all that has been mentioned above applies, ie you need to have a good plan, you need to have planned beforehand the activities that will be worthwhile watching etc. A downside in hiring a crew is that they will be a new – maybe even an intimidating – element in the classroom. Therefore, for the sake of authenticity, it may be better to learn to film yourself.

### **Editing the video and other materials**

First of all the video footage is recorded (captured) onto a computer's hard drive and then edited using specialized software (some of those listed below).

#### **SOFTWARE FOR EDITING**

Adobe Premiere: <http://www.adobe.com/products/premiere/>

Apple iMovie: <http://www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/>

Pinnacle Studio: <http://www.pinnaclesys.com/PublicSite/uk/Home/>

Windows Movie Maker:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.mspx>

Editing makes it possible to change any part of the video at any time. There are many kind of hardware and software options available. There are also several common video standards which, unfortunately, are incompatible with each other. For more information see <http://www.mediacollege.com/video/format/>.

Video editing is the process of rearranging video shots to create a new work. This process includes, for example, titling, color correction and sound mixing, rearranging, adding and/or removing sections of video clips and/or audio clips, applying color correction, filters and other enhancements, creating transitions between clips etc.

In editing you choose the best material for the final edit. Removing unwanted material is the most common task in editing. Many videos can be improved by simply getting rid of unwanted shots. The last part of editing is adding effects, graphics, music, transitions etc. Sometimes you can improve videos by adding some of these extra elements.

### **Publishing the video and other materials**

Once the editing is complete, the finished product is recorded back to tape or optical disk. It's also important to make backups. The most common formats for publishing videos using a media server are the following:

*MPEG* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mpeg>

File extension: .mpg

*QuickTime* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mpeg>

File extension: .mov

*Real Media* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RealMedia>

File extension: .rm

*Windows Media* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows\\_Media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Media)

File extension: .wmw

There are pros and cons for each format. Some users will only use a particular format, so if you want to reach the widest possible audience you should create separate files for each format. You have to make a decision between these formats or you can provide different formats for all the users (which may not be practical).

There are two ways to view media on the internet: downloading and streaming.

When you download a file the entire file is saved on your computer. Then you can open and view it. A big disadvantage of this method is having to download the whole file before it can be viewed. For large files and long presentations it can be inconvenient.

Streaming media works differently. The user can start watching the file almost as soon as it begins downloading. The file is sent to the user in a (more or less) constant stream, and the user watches it as it arrives. The obvious advantage with this method is that no waiting is involved.

A progressive download is a method in which the video clip is downloaded but begins playing as soon as a portion of the file has been received. This simulates true streaming, but doesn't have all the advantages.

## **Using for learning and teaching**

### **Before Viewing**

Preview the content of the video. Remember that you don't have to use the entire video, a part of it may be more useful for your purposes.

Stimulate students' pre-existing knowledge. Discuss suggested activities or description of the video with the students. You may also want to make them write down what they already know about the subject.

### **During Viewing**

Remind students of the viewing questions. You may also give students a task to write down interesting ideas or answers to the viewing questions.

It may be effective to show the video in short segments. Each segment should be analyzed thoroughly. Pause the video if students ask questions. Make sure that the students understand any possible new vocabulary.

Try a second viewing. It can be done without sound. Does the sound affect the way the students feel about the content? A second viewing may help to get more focused on the content.

### **After viewing**

#### *Word map*

Students can make a conceptual word map in small groups. They can write the key idea of the video in the center of a blank paper or an overhead transparency. Then they build the map by adding words related to the key word and arranging them in categories. Making a word map is followed with a discussion of the topic and additional information.

#### *Brainstorming*

Ask students to form small groups to generate a lot of ideas of the content (they can be written down in the form of questions, arguments etc). They can then present a summary of the ideas to the whole group. After all the groups have reported, summarize the ideas of the whole group and provide additional information of the subject.

#### *Comparing to another teaching method*

Divide the students into small groups to make a table of similarities and differences. Have students present their work. Discuss each idea and extend their understanding of the topic. Finally, you may also want to view the video for the second time.