

## Serif MoviePlus Project 7



### Have your say

#### Project brief

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Produce a balanced two-minute television news report or ten-minute documentary feature about an issue that is hitting the headlines either locally or nationally at present. Equal time should be given to both sides of the argument and the editing should be as neutral as possible.

**Note:** *The NFER report entitled Listening to Young People: Citizenship Education in England, published April 2005, looked in part at pupils' use of the media, finding that Year 12s watched more TV news than Year 8s and that they also use new media (including internet and mobile phones) more. Television reporting was considered far more reliable than newspapers – 48% of students trusted television “completely or quite a lot” compared to only 13% who “trusted newspapers completely or quite a lot.” (P 51). The report also suggested that students became more cynical as they grew older, and that females and non-whites trusted the media less than their peers.*

[www.nfer.ac.uk/research/downloads/RR626.pdf](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/research/downloads/RR626.pdf).

#### Curriculum focus

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**KS3NS English Framework – Year 7:** Wr15, S&L 15; **Year 8:** Wr13, S&L 15; **Year 9:** Wr13, S&L 15; **Drama 15** (Wr -present a case persuasively, using selective arguments: S&L - develop drama techniques to explore issues in role-play)

**ICT- Unit 10:** Information – reliability, validity and bias

**Citizenship – KS3 Unit 9:** The significance of the media in society - Section 1: What makes a news story? Section 2: How is the media used to promote causes and campaigns?

Unit 10: Debating a global issue; KS4 Unit 12: Global issues, local action; Unit 8: Producing the news.

#### Movie genre

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Documentary report, news item, interview

#### Learning objectives

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- To research, promote and justify a point of view in relation to a topical issue
- To find out about different approaches taken to a news story by the media
- To recognise both bias and objectivity in stories
- To consider how the media can promote causes and campaigns
- To develop a script and storyboard for a news item or documentary
- To film the necessary footage
- To use MoviePlus to edit the video and make opening titles and credits
- To export the movie in a suitable format for viewing

#### What you need

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- DV camera and tapes
- Tripod (optional, but recommended)
- External microphone
- News studio set and props; suitable locations
- Serif MoviePlus

#### Project outline

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##### Pre-production

- As a whole class activity, make a survey of local or national papers, radio and TV reports to compile a list of issues of interest to pupils which are currently in the news before agreeing a focus for the project.
  - Divide the class into three groups: an editorial team, a 'pro' campaign team and an 'anti' campaign team. The campaign teams should thoroughly research their points of view and script the interview questions and answers, while the editorial team manage the project, approve the respective storyboards/treatments and edit the footage.
  - View and discuss a few short news items from recent local news programmes in order to establish the kind of format the pupils' report could take – for example, an anchorperson or newsreader in the studio introducing the item, a reporter or foreign correspondent on location conducting interviews with people who have differing views on the issue, possibly also using commentary over illustrative footage or still shots.
  - Select suitable locations for interviews and organise a newsroom studio set
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- Prepare a 'shot list' of scenes or cutaway shots needed, or storyboard these

### Production

- Film the different scenes and interviews: documentary format often has waist or head shots of the reporter standing central to camera with cutaways to video segments e.g. of interviews or descriptive footage with a voiceover
- Use an external microphone for the interviews and shoot some 'noddy' shots of the interviewer
- Make sure that answers can be clearly heard – questions can be re-recorded later and added during editing.

### Post-production

- Make a project folder with another folder inside it called *project\_assets*. Save still images and audio to this folder.
- Connect your camera to a suitable PC, making sure it's set to Playback mode. Open MoviePlus, select Start from scratch on the *Startup* menu and choose a suitable project setting – either DV PAL or DV PAL Widescreen are standard UK formats. Choose as high a resolution and quality as possible at this stage: the movie can be resized and compressed later.
- To transfer your video footage from your camera to your PC, choose *Capture* from the Tools menu or click the *Capture* button, then use the controls under the preview window to play and pause the tape in your camera to find the footage you want to use. Choose whether to save all your scenes as separate files (recommended) by clicking in the *Split files by scene* check box. MoviePlus will automatically name and number your files.
- Start to play your video source a couple of seconds before the point at which you want it to start, then click Record. Click Pause if you want to fast forward to another part of the tape, then Pause again to resume recording. Click Stop when you have all the scenes you need.
- Name your project and save it.
- Use the skills learned in the introductory lesson to sequence and rough edit the movie:
  - a. drag and drop video clips onto Video Track 1 or 2 on the Timeline [**Lab 2: Video sources**];
  - b. play back, rewind and pause a sequence [**Lab 3: Previewing your project**];
  - c. zoom in on the Timeline to view it in greater detail [**Lab 2: Video sources**];
  - d. trim a clip by adjusting its start and end points. [**Lab 4: Trimming your video**]
- Preview and save the movie regularly and fine tune timings, sequencing, cuts.
- When you are happy with your movie select the Export button on the Standard toolbar and choose MPEG Video (\*.mpg) as the file type, VCD PAL from the template list and set the export Quality to High, then click the Export button. When MoviePlus finishes composing your movie you will be able to view it in your computer's default media player.

### Extension/differentiation

- ☆ Investigate editorial bias by dividing the class into two editorial teams who must each produce a rough-cut version of the report weighted in favour of one viewpoint only, using the same source footage/clips as in the original assignment.
- ☆ Storyboard and produce an '*ident*'\* for your news programme, either by applying fun effects to frames e.g. *Mosaic*, or by creating graphics in Serif PhotoPlus or similar image editing software.
- ☆ Use the Picture-in-Picture Effects editing feature of Serif MoviePlus to have 2 video sources running simultaneously e.g. a broadcaster/newsreader in the studio with "live" video from a reporter on location playing on a screen behind. (*MoviePlus Companion*, pp101-104)

[ \* An '*ident*' is a short film or opening sequence that establishes the identity of a TV channel or programme e.g. the BBC 1 *ident* of three basketball players dancing in their wheelchairs to a hip-hop theme: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/info/news/news398.shtml> ]

### Criteria for success

- Pupils showed understanding of the significance of the role of the media in putting across different views.
- They were able to promote and justify a point of view in relation to a given cause or issue.
- They were able to recognise bias in news stories.
- The three teams collaborated well.
- The campaign teams researched, scripted and role-played their viewpoints convincingly.
- The editorial team produced a balanced news report
- Camerawork, lighting and audio were effective – interviews were audible and relevant
- Links were authentic
- The finished footage met the time limit set