

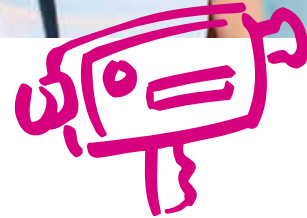
Present your class in film format!

As a film project, present your class! Show what is unique about you and your classmates in a short video clip full of interesting images.

Warm-up: Brainstorming

Before you can begin to film anything, you will of course need a **script** (see p. 58 in your book) in which you describe your project and your artistic arrangements in detail. As preparation for your script, **brainstorm** the following points and give reasons for the following:

- What aspects of your class would the majority of you consider **musts** regarding a good representation? (Think in categories such as personality, humour, quirks¹, etc.)
- What aspects would you say are **no-go territory** for your film?
- In what ways would you say your class is **special**?
- Can you think of **one feature** for your film that people would really remember, i. e. a **real highlight**?
- What film style, what camera shots do you think would match the **atmosphere** of your class best?
- What would you like your potential² audience to think of your class after watching your clip?



The project

STEP 1:

Together, think of a theme/motto. Example of a discussion:

“Our class can do anything; everyone’s going to be a big success in life. So maybe our motto could be, ‘9a is on its way!’ or ‘The sky’s the limit³!’. Other suggestions?”

STEP 2:

Select four students in your class who you think represent your motto in different ways (e. g., “Peter, because he loves skateboarding and always ...”). Film each of the four students in short scenes (10 seconds) with fast cuts. Have them do the following:

- Repeat your motto, and /or
- Say one key sentence only.

STEP 3:

Show your whole class in a scene together. Think of an interesting way to present everyone at the same time (e.g. have them walk around, dance, sing in the classroom, in a shopping centre, at the assembly hall, at the zoo, ...). Find music to go with the scene.

¹quirk [kws:k] Eigenart; Marotte • ²potential [pə'tenʃl] potentielle/-r/-s • ³The sky's the limit! [ðə'skaɪz ðə 'lɪmɪt] Nach oben sind (uns) keine Grenzen gesetzt!

STEP 4:

Now divide your class into groups of four. Each group should think of a way to present itself in a different way, with a different atmosphere (e.g. crazy, funny, exciting, strange, ...). Also, think of creative transitions⁴ between each scene, so that the scenes are somehow connected. Example: One group could be shown passing a funny doll/mascot/object to the next group at the beginning and/or end of each scene, etc.

STEP 5:

At the end of the film, make sure you somehow say/sing/show your motto again, so that the audience won't forget it!

TIP

Making a grid for the five steps might help you organize your project. Make three columns for **Steps**, **Ideas**, and **Filming information** (camera angles, shots, movements, special effects, etc.) and fill them in with notes.

Useful film terminology*

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| camera angle | the point of view or perspective from which a subject is photographed |
| contrast | the difference between light and shadow, or between maximum and minimum amounts of light |
| credits | list of people who make a film or help in some way |
| crew | the people involved in the production of a film (who are not actors) |
| cross-cutting | in editing: mixing shots from different scenes which may or may not be happening at the same time |
| cut | where one shot ends and the next one begins |
| cutaway | shot that interrupts a continuously-filmed action for a moment, usually to show a completely different action |
| dialogue | any lines spoken in a film by an actor / actress |
| dolly | trolley for moving the camera while shooting |
| establishing shot | usually a wide-angle shot used at the beginning of a scene or a sequence to give the audience an overview of where the action takes place |
| flashback | scene that breaks the chronological order to show past events |
| flash-forward | scene that breaks the chronological order to show future events |
| footage | film material of scenes that have been shot |
| format | size / aspect ratio of a frame, e.g. 4:3 or 16:9 |
| frame | single image of film |
| lines | the dialogue spoken by a performer |
| sequence | one or more scenes that form a single continuous piece of film |
| shot | single uninterrupted piece of film from one point of view |
| transition | way of moving from one scene to the next |
| wrap | the end of shooting, usually for the whole production. In the early days of cinema, the cameraman would say after filming "Wind, Reel, And Print" or "That's a wrap," meaning: "We're done." |

*You'll find film terminology and much, much more in *Discovery! A guide to film making*. (ISBN 978-3-12-547594-6)



⁴transition [træn'ziʃn] Übergang