

Equipment Guide for Teachers

The good think about teaching film is that you can be flexible and creative with the equipment that you use, and in the context of an Alaska school, you usually would not have to purchase any equipment. Please see the following notes to help guide you in choosing and using equipment for your class:

- There are a variety of options for cameras, including the followings: 1) camcorders 2) laptops generally have in-built cameras 3) i-pads have inbuilt cameras 4) some students may have cameras on their phones 5) snap-and-shoot cameras often have a video function. Caution: always insist students use a tripod or something that stabilizes their footage. Using a computer or iPad camera is not ideal, but can work well if need be.
- Tripods: it is critical that students use tripods or a surface to stabilize their camera. They can set their camera on a table or a pile of books if a tripod is not available.
- **Editing equipment**: ideally each student has a computer station to do their editing. Most Alaskan schools have computers for each student, but if this is not possible, students can schedule their editing sessions.
- **Audio equipment**: Typically students will use the audio that their camera records. However, if you have external audio equipment, or a budget to buy some (this can be less than \$50), this can help improve the audio quality.
- Extra equipment options: There are additional film supplies that can support your film project but are not at all necessary. Those items include: 1) Boom Pole which is what a sound person holds to use external audio during an interview, 2) Shotgun Mic which is an external microphone that allows you to record sound directionally, and which attaches to the end of the boom pole 3) XLR Cables which connects your camera to your external audio 4) Headphones for the sound recorder, 5) Stabilizer which allows you to hold your camera steady without using a tripod. You can find a more complete list of documentary filmmaking supplies at the following link:

http://www.desktop-documentaries.com/video-production-equipment.html



Film Vocabulary List

Animation: Successive photographs of drawings that creates an illusion of movement

Archive: Historical Photos and Documents

Archivist: Someone who manages an Archive

A-Roll: Primary interview footage used in a documentary

Body: Main content of the film

B-Roll: Footage Secondary to Primary Source Interviews or back-up footage

Conclusion: The end of a film that summarizes and wraps up the topic

Cutaway: Interruption of continuous footage with an insertion of other footage

Documentary: Film Based Upon a Factual Record

Ethnography: Study of Cultures

Fade-in/out: When an object goes in or out of focus

Following the Action: Moving the Camera with a Moving Object

Index: Abbreviated transcription that includes the themes discussed in an interview

rather than a word-for-word account

Interview Subject: The Person Being Interviewed

Introduction: The beginning of a film that sets the groundwork for exploring the topic

Lower Third: Text overlaying video

Narrative Arc: The storyline progression

Narrative Filmmaking: Fictional Film

Panorama: Moving the Camera Horizontally

Primary Source: An original work

Stop-Motion Animation: An animation technique that makes an object appear to move

on its own

Storyboard: Graphic organizer in the form of illustrations

Structured Interview: Interview with predetermined questions

Subtitles: Captions at the bottom of the screen that translate or show what is being said

Tilt: Moving the Camera Vertically

Time-Code: marking the time of the footage on your transcription

Transcription: Written version of interview / film

Unstructured Interview: Interview without predetermined questions

Wide-Shot, Medium Shot, Close-Up: Depending on How Close You Are to Your Subject



Lesson: Choosing a Topic for Your Ethnographic Film

Vocabulary: *Ethnography* (Study of Cultures), *Documentary* (Film Based Upon a Factual Record), *Narrative Filmmaking* (Fictional Film), *Unstructured Interview* (Interview without Predetermined Questions)

Alaska State Standards: Cultural Standards A.1

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Option 1: Predetermine a list of topics for your students, and have each student rank the topics from most wanted to least wanted. Assign topics based upon their rankings. This method is helpful if students need to study something very specific and if you need to do background research on their topics beforehand.	Align film topics both with 1) Student interests and 2) Topics that need to be covered based upon your curriculum.	An option to assess student choices could be to require them to write a sentence about their top three topics explaining why they chose that topic.
Option 2, Part 1: Write down the words "ethnography," "documentary" and "narrative film" on the board, and ask the students if they can define the terms. Tell the students that they each get to make a 5 minute movie about something that's important to them in their community, and that it will be their "ethnographic documentary." You can show them a sample of other student documentaries from the InterAK web portal to provide examples.	Students understand concept of ethnographic documentary as juxtaposed to narrative filmmaking.	Have students write definitions in their own words for new vocabulary terms in their journals.

Option 2, Part 2: Students write a personal brainstorm in their journal about the topics they might like to explore (e.g. pike fishing, whaling, traditional medicine, language, traditional dances, an elder, etc.). Write their ideas on the board.	Student apply their knowledge of ethnographic documentary filmmaking to their own lives and communities through a topic brainstorm.	Review student brainstorms in journal to ensure student has firm grasp of the concept of ethnographic documentary.
Option 2, Part 3: Have students share their ideas with the class, write ideas on the board. Students can brainstorm additional ideas as a group.	Students grasp the wide range of topics that they could choose for their ethnographic documentary.	Check brainstorm on the board to make sure that students' understand new concepts.
Option 2, Part 4: Students finalize their choice of documentary out of the list of topics. Encourage them to choose something that personally interests them. At this point students could also begin to storyboard (please see lesson: Story-Boarding).	Student finalize their choice of topic.	Students write topic and paragraph about why they chose that topic based upon the individual and class brainstorm.
Option 3: If a student has a particularly hard time choosing a topic, have them participate in 1 – 3 elder / community interviews (please see "Interview Techniques" lesson plan), and then ask them afterwards what part of the interview was most fascinating to them. They can base their film on the topic that "naturally" emerges. Explain to student that this is the "unstructured interview" approach, where you have a conversation with an interview subject and then analyze it later for important themes.	Students understand concept of "unstructured interview" and how a film topic can emerge after the first interview(s).	Students write topic and paragraph about why they chose that topic based upon an unstructured interview(s).

Special Note: This lesson involves several activities and options that can help your students to choose a topic for their ethnographic documentary. Choose the activity(s) that best suits your group of students and your school curricula; this is not a sequential lesson plan.

Teacher Follow Up Activity: You or the students could each create a physical as well as a computer file to collect all the research information found on each topic.



Lesson: Composition for Filmmaking

Vocabulary: *B-Roll* (Footage Secondary to Primary Source Interviews), *Wide-Shot*, *Medium Shot*, *Close-Up* (Depending on How Close You Are to Your Subject), *Panorama* (Moving the Camera Horizontally), *Tilt* (Moving the Camera Vertically), *Following the Action* (Moving the Camera with a Moving Object), *Fade-in/out* (When an object goes in or out of focus).

Alaska State Standards: Technology A.2 & 4

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Explain to students that they will watch a short film and look at the different kinds of shots used (A good film to use is "Portrait of Nikolai" http://vimeo.com/14854233). Frequently pause the film so that the screen is frozen, and ask the class what they notice on the screen. After students make their observations say what the shot is (e.g. if it's an old photo, explain that it's an archival photo used for B-roll, if the camera is both following the action and doing a panorama, explain that, etc.). Write the terms down on the board. This exercise can happen with or without the volume, and you can go through the same short film twice.	Students understand composition concepts through the application of different compositional models in a film. Students grasp emotional and intellectual impact of different kinds of shots.	While students discuss different types of composition, assess for creative thought rather than correct answers, as composition is an aesthetic matter with a variety of interpretations. Promote participation rather than correctness at this point in the process.

Connect the camera to the TV so that students can see on the TV screen the camera footage in real time. Have students individually practice different shots (pan, tilt, Wide, Medium, and Close-Up Shots, Following the Action, Fade-in/out) while the rest of the class watches the screen. Prepare for giggles as students film each other, and an active, learning class. Provide feedback to students to make sure they have a clear understanding of each shot.	Students apply and practice their knowledge of compositional concepts.	Watch student composition and listen to the comments of students watching the composition. Provide immediate feedback to students who have an incorrect understanding, and also to students who are grasping the concepts accurately.
Have each student write in their journal a definition of each term in their own words. If they are confused that can ask you for assistance.	Students practice their knowledge of composition through defining terms in their own words.	Assess student definitions after class for accuracy.
Students go in pairs or as a whole group (depending on group size and camera equipment) to go get footage either around the school or around the community, making at least one shot according to each of the new terms.	Students practice their compositional knowledge and simultaneously gather B-Roll for their films.	Circulate among students and observe the shots they are getting, the conversations they are having, and how their shots connect to their films. Provide immediate verbal feedback.
Upon return, watch footage either at the end of class time or at the beginning of the next day to review the different types of shots obtained. Students should upload footage that they want to use for their final films immediately to their computer.	Students test their knowledge of composition by reviewing footage for feedback with classmates.	Watch student composition and listen to the comments of students watching the composition. Provide immediate feedback to students who have an incorrect understanding, and also to students who are grasping the concepts accurately.

Teacher Follow Up Activity: Make sure students uploaded footage they want to use onto their computers for the editing process. Optional: Have a test for students to define each term, or to match up the terms with their correct definitions.



Lesson: Creating a Storyboard to Support Your Film

Vocabulary: *Storyboard* (graphic organizer in the form of illustrations), *Narrative Arc* (the Storyline Progression), *Introduction* (the beginning of a film that sets the groundwork for exploring the topic), *Body* (main content of the film), *Conclusion* (the end of a film that summarizes and wraps up the topic)

Alaska State Standards: English / Language Arts A.4; Arts A.3;

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Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Draw a series of squares on the	Students grasp the concept and	Observe how students are engaged,
board, and explain to the class that	purpose of a storyboard, and how a	and whether their ideas for the
they will "fill in" the storyboard all	storyboard communicates a	storyboard fit within a narrative
together (it will look something	narrative arc.	arc.
like a cartoon series). Choose a		
topic relevant for the class (e.g.		
fishing, whaling, berry picking,		
etc.). Each box in the storyboard		
can have a variety of elements,		
including a title, landscape,		
interview, credits, and other scenes.		
Have the students decide		
altogether what each storyboard		
box will contain, supporting them		
to make a clear introduction,		
body, and conclusion.		
After the class' storyboard is on the		After collecting students' ideas on
board, explain that they have		the board, ask class about which
created a Narrative Arc. Ask them		boxes include the introduction,
to identify the introduction, body,		body, and conclusion to ensure
and conclusion in their own		understanding.
storyboard.		

Have each student create their	Von and student's stamphand on
	Keep each student's storyboard or
own storyboard for their own	take a photograph to compare to
film topic on flip-chart paper	their final film, not to make sure
(this lesson applies for both	they match exactly but to see how
documentary and narrative	much the film changed through the
filmmaking). If students are	production process. Check
making films in pairs they can	storyboard for quality, and provide
work in pairs on their storyboard.	personal feedback about strengths
Emphasize that their storyboard	and weaknesses.
should have a narrative arc, and	
include people to interview,	
locations, summaries of narration,	
titles, etc.	
Have students present their	Have students do a silent peer
storyboards to their peers for	review using sticky notes. Each
discussion and clarification.	student can leave sticky notes with
Students can make changes to their	comments, questions, and ideas on
storyboards based upon class	their peers' storyboards before
feedback. Tell students that their	discussing as a class.
final films will not exactly match	
their storyboards, but that their	
storyboard is like a map or a guide	
to help them structure their process.	

Teacher Follow Up Activity: Have students refine their storyboard for homework.



Lesson: Creating an animation

Vocabulary: *Animation* (successive photographs of drawings that creates an illusion of movement), *Stop-Motion Animation* (an animation technique that makes an object appear to move on its own)

Alaska State Standards: Arts C.1, Technology D.2

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Write the definition for animation and stopmotion animation on the board. Tell the class they will learn how to create their own animation. Show student film "We are Here" to the class and have them identify the animated parts: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Xc45WboDQ . After watching the film, discuss the following questions with the class: Why did the filmmaker choose to animate certain scenes from her film? How did the animation change the mood of the film? Does anyone have a guess about how Kyla created her animation? 	Students understand animation and why it can be useful techniques to support their films.	Have each student write a definition for animation in their own words.
Show the class the following clip as an example of stop-motion animation, and ask the class to put into their own words the difference between animation and stop-motion animation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJlqQSMifqk Remind students that they can use either tool to express an idea in their film.	Students understand the difference between animation and stop-motion animation.	Have each student write a definition for stop-motion animation in their own words.

Have animation stations pre-set for students (animation station consists of a camera, tripod, paper, and drawing / painting supplies). Students can work individually or in groups of 3-4 to create an animation. Have them choose a piece from their film that they would like to convey using animation. Have students draw a background and then cut out people / objects that they can move on the background to create their animation. Their animation must fit within the context of their film. Students will take ~70 still photographs, each time moving their drawings slightly so that when the photos are strung together, it looks like they are moving gradually, like a flip book.	Students practice creating their own animations that support their film topics.	Use students' final animations to see how effectively they use the tool to express an idea in their film.
 Watch student animations as a class and critique. Discussion questions can include: Does the animation make sense? Does the animation support the film topic? Are they too jerky, or do they flow? Is it clear to the audience what is going on in the animation? Have students upload their animations onto their computers / editing stations 	Students learn to effectively critique animation.	Have students each write down a critique of their own or a classmates work, particularly the strengths and weaknesses of their animation.

Teacher Follow Up Activity: Have students further develop their animations if applicable for their films.



Lesson: Ethnographic Interview Techniques

Vocabulary: *Ethnography* (Study of Cultures), *Structured Interview* (Interview with Predetermined Questions), *Unstructured Interview* (Interview Without Predetermined Questions), *Interview Subject* (The Person Being Interviewed)

Alaska State Standards: English / Language Arts A.1; Culture A.3

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Write a topic for an interview on the board (please see "Choosing a Story" lesson plan). Students in pairs write down at least three questions about that topic.	Students think critically and creatively about interview questions.	Collect students' journals to see their written questions and write feedback.
Students share their questions; write them on the board as a brainstorm. Entire class brainstorms additional questions relating to the interview topic, and questions are written on the board.	Class engages in non-judgmental brainstorm and dialogue on potential interview questions. This is a good opportunity for the teacher to provide constructive feedback.	Have students write at least three of their favorite questions from the group brainstorm down in their journals for review later.
Each student chooses / is assigned one question from the list to ask the interview subject.	Students are clear about their role in the interview.	Each student writes their chosen question down in their journal.
Explain to students that they are about to conduct an ethnographic interview, that the interview is structured, but that some interview subjects change the topic and that it is okay to let the interview become unstructured to respect the interview subject.	Students grasp the two main types of ethnographic interviews.	After lecture ask class to define the new terms (ethnographic interview, interview subject, structured interview, unstructured interview), and write down the definitions on the board. Have each student write down the definitions in their journals.

Students conduct interview (please see "recording equipment" and "how to shoot" lesson plans) with interview subject. An elder can visit the school, students can visit the elder, or students can interview one another or a faculty member. Students lead the interview, and the teacher can facilitate. Make sure that the subject signs a release form, and that the students thank the subject.	Students practice ethnographic interview methodologies.	Take notes during the interview about the strengths you observed in the students (Who asked an off-the-cuff question that was just perfect? Which student was courageous enough to ask a question even while feeling shy? Who was thoughtful about how to compose the shot?) to share with them during the debrief.
Watch the footage (or highlighted portions) to debrief interview. Discussion questions can include: 1) How does the shot look? Was the interview structured or unstructured? What was challenging about the interview? What was your favorite part, and why? What would you do differently next time?	Students reflect upon and analyze their interview techniques from a visual and ethnographic perspective.	Students demonstrate understanding of new vocabulary and concepts through their discussion and review of the footage.
Homework: Students write paragraph including 1) one additional question they wished they would have asked, 2) their favorite part of the interview and why, 3) what they would do differently next time.	Student individually reflect upon and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the interview.	Students demonstrate understanding of best practices during an interview through their written analysis of the interview.

Teacher Follow Up Activity: Load interview footage onto the computers of students who will use that interview for a film, or transcribe that interview at a later date.



Lesson: How to use B-Roll to support your documentary

Vocabulary: *A-Roll* (Primary interview footage used in a documentary), *B-Roll* (Footage Secondary to Primary Source Interviews or back-up footage), *Cutaway* (interruption of continuous footage with an insertion of other footage)

Alaska State Standards: English/Language Arts B.2, Arts C.2, Technology D.2

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Choose a short (~5 min) documentary film (e.g.	Introduce students to the	Watch for whether or not
Kodiak student film	idea of a-roll and b-roll.	students correctly identify
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBr6rvPdoNA)		b-roll in the film. Verbally
and explain to students that they will look to see		guide them if they have a
how the filmmaker does a "cutaway" from the a-		difficult time understanding.
roll, to create b-roll. Watch the film one time		
without pause, and watch a second time to		
have students say "b-roll" every time they see		
"b-roll." Ask the class why they think the		
filmmaker chose the b-roll that they chose.		
How does the b-roll support the script, or		
interview?		
Have students work in pairs to create a short	Students apply their	Walk around to support
storyboard (refer to the "Storyboard" lesson	understanding of a-roll and	partners in their discussion
plan) on flip chart paper. Their storyboards	b-roll in their own	and storyboard creation and
should have multiple text boxes that alternate	storyboard.	to assess student
between A-roll and B-roll (e.g. the first		understanding.
storyboard box could include an a-roll interview		
about fishing, and the second box could include		
b-roll of a fish).		
Have each pair present their storyboard to the	Students verbalize their	Observe students to ensure
group and explain which sections are a-roll and	vision of how a-roll and b-	that they understand not
which b-roll, and why they chose the b-roll to	roll can work together.	only the difference between
support the a-roll. The b-roll should always		a-roll and b-roll, but also
connect to the a-roll so that the film audience (or		how the two work together.
the class) understands why the b-roll was chosen.		

Optional: Have students collect b-roll for their	Student practice the new	Have students write down
specific film topics. They can stay in the	concept of b-roll and collect	the b-roll that they
classroom, the school, or go outside. You can	footage for their films.	collected, and explain in
ask them to collect panoramas, tilts, and stable		writing how their b-roll
shots, and remind them to always use a tripod or		connect to their topic.
a stable surface. Remind them they can also use		1
archival photographs and film for b-roll (please		
see "Archives" lesson plan. Oftentimes schools		
have archival photos on record or display, and		
this can be a great resource for student films.		
Have students upload their footage		
immediately.		
Gather the class, and watch some of the b-roll	Students consolidate	Assign students the b-roll
they collected to discuss as a class.	knowledge through a review	worksheet attached below.
Alternatively, watch Kaktovik youth film	session.	
"Weather or Not" at:		
https://vimeo.com/48033247 and pause on the b-		
roll to discuss the ways that she used b-roll to		
strengthen her film.		

Teacher Follow Up Activity: If students can use camera equipment, have them collect b-roll that relates to their film. Students can use built-in computer cameras, phone cameras, or still cameras if video recorders are not available.

B-Roll Handout

Name____

This is an excerpt from a real, anonymous interview with an elder.

Instructions: Choose B-roll that you would use if this script were part of your own film. Describe the Broll you would choose by answering the following questions:

- Would you use a photograph or film?
- What would you include in the image / film?
- What kind of shot would you use (e.g. panorama, tilt, long shot, close up, etc.)?

Would it be black and white, or color?Would you use stock footage or your own footage? Why?
Interview Statement: This is what they used to do here a long time ago, around the village.
B-Roll:
They stayed home in the summer-time while they were catching fish.
B-Roll:
They dried the fish they caught. All the people that stayed here were doing that.
B-Roll:
After the fish were dried, some of the men would travel upriver towards the mountains.
B-Roll:
But the young women and people who had small children would stay home while the men and only some of the women went upriver to the mountains.
B-Roll:



Lesson: Transcribing Interviews

Vocabulary: *Transcription* (written version of interview / film), *Index* (abbreviated transcription that includes the themes discussed in an interview rather than a word-for-word account), *Subtitles* (captions at the bottom of the screen that translate or show what is being said), *Lower Third* (text overlaying video) *Time-Code* (marking the time of the footage on your transcription)

Alaska State Standards: Library / Information Literacy A.3 & B.5, English / Language Arts A.1,

Activity	Objective	Assessment Tool
Pass each student the handout attached below	Introduce students to the	Listen for how students
of a sample transcription. Let students look at the	concept of transcribing,	define the terms based upon
handouts, and ask students to try to define	index, and time-code.	the samples.
transcription, index, and time-code based upon		
the samples that they see. Write the definition		
of transcription and time-code on the board.		
Have students brainstorm what the purpose of	Students understand	For homework or in class:
a transcription of their film or interviews could	professional application of	have students write down
be (possible answers: to create a research tool, to	transcription.	three professional
help with the editing process, to create a	_	applications of transcription
storyboard, to create an archive, to create a		(e.g. court transcriber,
document for translation). Explain that some		documentary transcriber,
people are professional transcriptionists, and that		creating a record of a public
every court hearing has a transcriptionist taking		meeting, creating an archive
record of what is said.		at a museum or library,
Total of What is said.		etc.).
Have students create their own transcription of	Students practice	Have students turn in their
a short interview statement for practice. Each	transcribing and creating an	sample transcriptions /
student could have their headphones on with their	index, including use of time-	indices and write individual
own audio recording, but if this is not possible,	code.	feedback to them.
	code.	reedback to them.
you can play audio for the whole class. Make		
sure they include a time-code when they		
transcribe, as on the samples. If there is time,		
students can also take the time to create an		
index so that they can practice the difference		
between a transcription and an index.		

Explain that transcriptions can help with	Students gain skills in how	Have students individually
inserting subtitles into your film, which is	to use transcription to insert	write definitions in their
important throughout Alaska as we have diverse	subtitles into their films.	own words for the
accents and languages throughout the state.		following terms:
Explain the idea of lower thirds, in which text		 Transcription
is used on screen (e.g. to introduce someone's		• Index
name and / or title). Watch five minutes of		Lower Third
"Portrait of Nikolai"		Time Code
(<u>https://vimeo.com/14854233</u>) and have students		• Subtitles
identify when subtitles and lower thirds are		Subtries
utilized by the youth filmmakers.		
Have students create an index for at least	Students practice their	Have student turn in their
one of their interviews, and let them know	transcribing and indexing	index.
that their indices will become a part of the	skills, and contribute to the	
school archives.	school's archives.	

Transcription vs. Index Handout: What is the Difference?

Read the following selections from an index and a transcription, and identify the difference between the two. Write down what you think a transcription is, and what you think an index is.

Section of a Sample Index

Interviewee: Anonymous Interviewer: Anonymous Date of interview: 6/9/13

Location: Anonymous (Kodiak, Alaska)

Length of interview: 17:56

Indexer: Anonymous The interviewee is an experienced lion that has a wealth of stories on just about everything including anything to do with the lions club so he was a perfect person to interview about the

founding of port lions

0:03 Q: can you start by introducing yourself

0:06 A: interviewee introduces himself

0:22 Q: could you tell your experience with the earth quake/tsunami

0:22 A: interviewee tells what happened to him and his family during the earth quake.

1:55 Q: could you describe the damage in the village of Afognak

1:59 A: interviewee describes the damage done by the tsunami to Afognak

3:19 Q: How would you describe the efforts to rebuild Afognak

3:25 A: interviewee tells the story of lions club international proposing the off to move and rebuild there town

Section of a Sample Transcription

Name of Interviewee: Anonymous Name of Interviewer: Anonymous

Date: June 7, 2013

Location: Kodiak Public Library Length of Interview: 11:26

Background Information: Molly has been living in the state of Alaska for almost 50 years. She was residing in Anchorage with her family at the tie of the earthquake. At the time of the earthquake, her cousins were actually living in Seward, during the quake. Molly now currently works at the Kodiak Public Library.

0:30 We had small earthquakes when we were little, so when my mom started screaming we kind of laughed at her, It just got worst and worst. Get under the table! Two of my sisters were down stairs, so she had to wiggle her way down the stairs. Every step you took, the ground wasn't there or it came up to meet you. The stairs led down to cement floor (floor was rolling like waves) my sister would get knocked against the wall, she would let go, and she rode that wave back down the hall way.

2:00 No communication, finally the radio came back on, we didn't know that Anchorage couldn't be hurt by the tidal wave, because the inlet is so small. We heard terrible thing about our cousins in Seward.

2:26 For days we would go down to the Red Cross, to try and contact our cousins. Family in states could not be contacted.