

# FVP12 • Halifax West High School

Semester 2: February - June 20116

Mr. Barker • <http://mikebarker.weebly.com/> • [mbarker@hrsb.ca](mailto:mbarker@hrsb.ca)

## Module 1: Fundamentals

### Assignment: Storyboard & Remake

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of each member of the production team
- Identify key elements of story as expressed in film.

#### Assignment Overview

In production groups (3-4 members), students are required to re-make a short film based upon an extract from existing movie or television broadcast, music video, etc.

#### Background & Influences

The comedy film, *Be Kind Rewind* (2008) is the work of Michel Gondry, a director noted for his inventive visual style and manipulation of mise-en-scène



*Be Kind Rewind* is a story of a small neighborhood VHS only video rental store. While deputising for the storeowner, an employee's friend accidentally erases all of the tapes. In order to cover up their blunder, the duo of Mike and Jerry begin remaking the films themselves using homemade special effects and outdated filming techniques. The pair 're-create' a long line of films including *The Lion King*, *Rush Hour*, *Ghostbusters*, *When We Were Kings*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Robocop*, putting themselves and their townspeople into it.

FVP12 students are asked to consider a similar concept and then pay homage to their own choice of movie. Although the final results may be comedic or offbeat similar to the examples depicted in *Be Kind Rewind*, the analysis and planning (in the form of a storyboard, inc. shot types, etc) must be tightly structured before any actual production takes place.

#### The Assignment

*The project has 3 stages:*

##### 1. Choosing a Film Clip

For the first part, as a group, students must choose and agree upon a 1-2 minute scene from a movie, TV drama, music video, etc. The choice of sequence is down to the production group. However, the sequence must include a variety of camera shot types (LS, ECU, POV, MS, etc). A sequence featuring an over extended long or mid-shot (or any shot!) will not do. Closely study scenes from a clip on youtube or a DVD, etc. Select and then storyboard!

##### 2. Storyboarding (20 pts)

*Storyboarding is an important aspect of the pre-production phase. The storyboard artist works closely with the screenplay writer and director, the storyboard artist breaks down the scenes of the script into shots, which can be filmed. The storyboard represents a manipulation of time. It condenses the communication process to a pictorial simplification of a multitude of complicated factors.*

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The storyboard is a visual account of how **subject** and **camera motion** will occur. Storyboarding also helps to articulate the **mise-en-scène**. As the film nears production, the storyboard is brought to the attention of the cinematographer. **Students are to create their own storyboard templates.** Use a ruler or straight edge to create frames. **Aim to fit 12 frames over 2 pages.** Alternately a larger piece of paper could be used. Consider aspect ratio when designing the storyboard.

Most commonly, **storyboards are drawn in pen or pencil.** Alternately take photos, cut out pictures from magazines, or use a computer to make storyboards. You don't have to be great at drawing. Visualise and communicate using basic shapes, stick figures, and simple backgrounds. It is important to show **each different shot-type** and include **camera movements** and **additional (written/symbolic) information** about what is happening on the screen. Complete a storyboard and then shoot the sequence!



### 3. Production (55 pts)

From your artwork & notes, the final task is to carefully re-shoot the chosen film sequence (20 pts)

Students may consider dialogue, props, costumes, location, visual effects, etc. However, the final outcome will be assessed upon the flow and accuracy of the shot-types, composition, movement related to the original sequence and the student storyboard.

Careful planning is vital as all editing is to be done in-camera.

Include a title (name of the film) at the start and credits/production roles at the end of the piece. At this stage production roles may include director, assistant director, storyboard artist, camera operator, sound recordist, actor, etc. Which one are you? Students will have to be inventive when it comes to getting this text-based information on screen. (10pts)

*\*Please note that video cameras will only be given out if there is sufficient evidence that the required planning stages have been attempted.*

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## **Submit for Assessment**

1. Completed original annotated storyboard from an existing film (20 pts)
2. Completed 1-2 minute film remake (20) with title/production credits. Group members must be credited with a recognised production role (10 pts)

**Assignment Total= 50 pts**

*Deadline for submission Tuesday 23rd February 2016*

*M. Barker Feb 2016*