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## FLM171.1 Introduction to Cinematography and Location Sound Example 2

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# PRE-VIS PROJECT

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# NARRATIVE PHOTO SEQUENCE

## FEEDBACK AND REFLECTION

The activities during class helped me to understand better the settings that I should use and consider for my outdoors shoot. I got good feedback and also took a liking to one photo that captured motion in one of the class activities where we changed the shutter speed and felt like it was something I could incorporate into my plan because there are some aspects of the core narrative that would require motion and the in-class activity gave me an example of an aesthetic quality that I loved. In class, we discussed and explored framing and composition which I find very interesting and crucial.

I consider myself a pretty instinctual person and rebellious, however, would like to be more considered in my approach and skilled so that I can have more control over how I convey a message and ultimately tell a story. I find it fascinating how much you can say without words and like the idea that you can say what you need to say first with everything in the frame, the composition and exposure. For this, cinematography is very creatively stimulating to me. Techniques for me to consider include rule of thirds, Hitchcock's rule, balanced/unbalanced composition, high and low angles, depth of field and shot types (p.6-15 Mercado 2013).

My narrative plan and creative idea was fleshed out well but I need to give more consideration to the other aspects of the plan including camera exposure settings, sounds and camera angles. The idea for the narrative photo sequence was well received and understood in its message. I will fill in more detail to the shot list/plan to get ahead of myself on the shoot day.

I also need to match the details on my shot list with storyboard as there were some differences. I would like to have all the details from the shot list spreadsheet on my storyboard so I have just handwritten them on the storyboard for ease on shoot day, including time allocated for each shot and the sequence i'll be shooting in.

## PROJECT REFLECTION (RETROSPECTIVE/POST-MORTEM).

- What went well? What didn't go well?
- My actors turned up and were very responsive, even helpful which was a great luxury for my first shooting project. My actors understood the story and were patient and attentive whilst I was setting up each shot. Timing wise, I overestimated it which probably had something to do with how well I planned it and how great my actors were (again). Getting the motion shot of the larger vehicle was challenging as that isn't in my control and was a task of waiting patiently and hoping... also to get the same vehicle (at least same colour) for continuity was challenging and did not happen. It was forecast to rain and didn't which was also great, however, though it was overcast, the light was very bright and it was quite hot so it didn't make it extremely comfortable for the actors.
- So what did I do?

I had to work with the lighting that I had and tried to get it to the right exposure though obviously compromised for the sake of the shooting location. I also had to compromise and just use whatever vehicle happened to be in the shot as it came past and chose after the fact instead of waiting around for a similar car. I was aware of timing and so I didn't overextend the waiting periods, especially if I still had an actor on set with me.

- So what should I have done? What can I do differently in the future?

I could have thought about this continuity issue beforehand and also used the time allocated for each shot to think these minor details through. I could have asked for another helper to be the driving vehicle for the shot that I wanted-added a crew member. It all comes down to planning and yes, to some degree it flowed well because of what was thought through prior to the shoot, however, still needs more. This process has shown me how every element within the frame (and without) needs to be combed through very diligently. I generally like the attention to detail in life and recognise that I have these skills, I just need to employ and develop them

- Now what do I need to learn now?

To further what I've reflected on, I think what would help my process is to seek more feedback from classmates, tutors and those who have more skills, knowledge and experience than me. Additionally, I would like to employ more use of conceptualising and story structure—I felt very much that I kept wanting to add shots in once shooting, however, this project has helped me to understand that there

plan any films projects that I execute from here on in especially given that my concepts are usually naturalist and simple with few cast members and financially viable.

Katz, S. D. (2019). *Film directing : shot by shot : visualizing from concept to screen*. Michael Wiese Productions.

Mercado, G (2013) *Filmmaker's Eye : Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition*

 No Money No Matter Narrative Photo Sequence





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