

News Package Project

Okay, so it's time to put together your own broadcast segment. This is by far one of the most challenging projects you have been asked to complete to this point. Pre-production, camera work, audio quality and editing all come together in the creation of this piece. One thing you'll notice about all the segments that go to broadcast is that **they all relate to Perth Amboy's community.** You can choose to highlight a person, activity, sport, club, teacher, classroom project, social issue, or school event, but it must in some way relate to our community here in Perth Amboy. The only catch is that **you and you alone are responsible** for making the all the necessary contacts, meetings and interviews. This means doing all it takes to get what you need to pull your piece together. Here's a list of the steps and requirements for the project:

PRE-PRODUCTION

Most Important: Using a "segment pre-production sheet," fill in the necessary ideas and details you would love to have included in your segment. Try to imagine what your audience would like to know about the subject you are focusing on. **The more time and detail in your pre-production the better!!! All segments must be approved!!**

Try to choose a subject that you think you can realistically accomplish.

1. Do the leg work... contact the people you need for your piece and see when and where you can get them in front of the camera.
2. Visualize, visualize, visualize...If you can't imagine how the piece is going to be, then how do you ever expect to create it!!!
3. Shot Selection and Location... what are your dream shots that will absolutely **dazzle** your audience? Remember B-roll can make or break a segment... talking heads put us to sleep!!
 - a. Your segment must include the following:
 - a. 1 to 2 minutes in length
 - b. an intro and closing voice over
 - c. 2-3 interviews (in some cases 1 interview will be enough)
 - d. B-roll footage or still frames related to the audio content
 - e. An opening title

PRODUCTION-

1. Make sure you have all necessary ingredients for a successful shoot/interview..
 - a. tripod
 - b. camera with a charged battery
 - b. blank mini dv tape
 - c. external microphone with cable
2. Select a backdrop or background that is appropriate for the subject you are focusing on.
 - a. Watch out for the light from those windows!!!
 - b. Be wary of competing sounds and noise
 - c. Make sure to **compose** you interviewee with decent headroom in a medium shot, following the rule of thirds.
 - d. Get variety in your b-roll shots...wide, medium, tight shots, WALLDO, etc...
 - e. Have focused questions and directions ready to go the minute your subject is ready for the interview...
 - f. **REMEMBER** You have to take charge and get your subjects to do exactly what you need! If you drop the ball here, you'll be forced to shoot again till you get it right!!

POST-PRODUCTION

1. Open Final Cut Pro
2. Create a new **project** and **folder** in FCP. The folder should be in the "TV Production Class_Period..." folder and should have your full name on it. The project name should be your first name and last initial followed by "interview".
3. Capturing (SOT's) or soundbites ... Connect your camera to the computer using "firewire" and capture "only" the clips you plan to use on your project!!! This is important because loading the machines up with lots of footage slows them down and tends to make them crash a lot.
4. Create your script that includes your voice overs and SOT's written out. See hand-out on preparing a script.
5. Completed projects are expected to air on the Panthers' Roar Morning Show and PATV (Perth Amboy's Local Access Channel).