

Silent Film Project

Adobe Premiere (or Movie Maker)

Silent films were all the rage back in “the day.” Silent movies are movies that have no spoken dialog, allowing the actors to communicate via actions and body language, usually supplemented by background music, subtitles, or both. For this project you will create a short dramatic film. The film should center around one of the following themes:

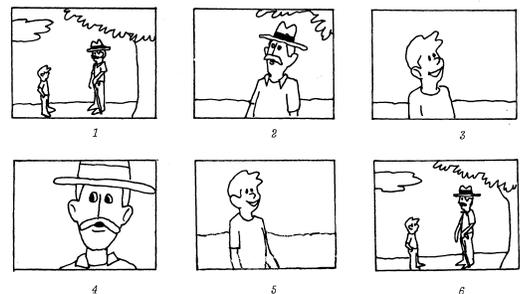
- Crime drama—“Whodunnit” type film
- Comedy—Slapstick type film

Criteria

- 👉 You (and you may work with a partner, but you will have to edit the film individually on your own computers) will create a complete pre-production storyboard/shot list.
- 👉 All projects must have at least **25 shots and between 2 and 4 minutes edited**. Filming should be in an original location (not at school or in your room).
- 👉 You must have a distinct beginning, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion that are clearly identifiable.
- 👉 You will include closing credits to acknowledge actors and resources used. Note where all musical sequences are from. Music should be “old piano” style like silent films typically use.
- 👉 When you edit the video, when you first import it, be sure to change the video color/saturation so it looks more “old timey” as these videos should not be full color. Experiment and age the film before you edit.
- 👉 Either PowerPoint, Photoshop, or Premiere Titler may be used for title/subtitle cards.

A basic sequence consists of the following shots:

1. Establishing shot
2. Medium shot of main character
3. Reaction shot/cutaway of secondary character
4. Close up (or sometimes medium) of main character
5. Reaction shot/cutaway of secondary character
6. Wide shot of both characters in their location



- Sites with old music instrumentals for silent films:
 - <http://www.perfessorbill.com/index.html>
 - <http://www.mont-alto.com/photoplaymusic/SamFoxMovingPictureVol1/SamFoxV1.html>
 - <http://incompetech.com/m/c/royalty-free/silentfilm.html>

SILENT FILM SCORING GUIDE

Name: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Movie Title: _____

Requirement	Points	Deducted
Title card includes: Copyright date (Your School Name) HS DV Pictures presents, title, and starring actor A (Your Name as Producer) Production	10	
Subtitle cards are all coordinated and use appropriate fonts and some embellishment	10	
Spelling/grammar of cards	15	
Use of varying shots/angles including establishing, medium, reaction/cutaway, and wide shots	15	
Acting is suitable for silent genre—overacted, obvious, etc.	10	
Clear intro, rising action, climax, falling action, conclusion **Write a paragraph or two below detailing each of these parts of the film	20	
THE END to end the film	5	
Closing credits acknowledging all resources/actors	10	
Film looks aged and is desaturated	10	
Fast paced action/plot	10	
Appropriate old style music added	10	
TOTAL	125	

Movie Synopsis (address required parts, but do not give away the ending!)