

Editing a Portrait Documentary with LumaFusion

Objective:

Students will learn the process of creating a compelling video portrait from an interview, focusing on capturing the subject's personality, emotions, and experiences through visual and auditory storytelling techniques.

Materials:

- iPhone, iPad, Chromebook, or Android phone/tablet with LumaFusion app downloaded
- Audio recording equipment (optional)
- phone or tablet for filming and Tripod
- External microphone (either a separate audio recorder or a wired mic attached to phone).

DURATION: 3-4 CLASS PERIODS (ADJUSTABLE BASED ON CLASS PACE AND ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT)

Day 1: Introduction to Video Portraits

- Begin with a discussion on the purpose and elements of a video portrait.
- Show examples of video portraits from various sources, highlighting different styles and approaches. Discuss how elements such as lighting, composition, sound, and editing contribute to the overall impact. **Video Portrait Example:** [The HandCrafter](#) – 3:45
- Introduce the assignment: Students will conduct an interview with a classmate or an individual from the community to create a video portrait. Who is this person? How do they approach life? What do we have to learn from them?

Day 2: Pre-production Planning

- Guide students in selecting their interview subjects and scheduling interview sessions. Encourage them to choose subjects with a story to tell and a unique perspective. Brainstorm creative ways to approach both filming and editing to complement the subject.
- Discuss the importance of pre-production planning, including researching the subject, preparing interview questions, and scouting locations for filming.
- Provide guidance on setting up the interview environment, including considerations for lighting, sound, and framing. Demonstrate proper camera and microphone setup techniques.

Day 3: Interview and Filming

- Review best practices for conducting interviews, including active listening, asking open-ended questions, and encouraging authentic responses.
- Allow students time to conduct their interviews, ensuring they capture a range of emotions, expressions, and anecdotes from their subjects.

Day 4: Editing with LumaFusion

Watch the following LumaFusion Academy Videos and have students begin to edit.

[Starting a new Project in LumaFusion](#)

[Organizing your Media in LumaFusion](#)

[How to edit an Interview in LumaFusion](#)

[Killing Your Darlings](#)

[Sharing Projects Between Devices and Two Editors](#)

Guide students in organizing their footage and creating a rough cut of their Video Portrait. Emphasize the importance of pacing, clarity, and visual appeal.

- Allow time for peer review and feedback sessions: Is the story clear? Engaging? Do they need more b-roll? This can be done in small groups or as a class.
- Encourage students to make necessary revisions based on feedback and finalize their Video Portraits.

Day 5: Screen

Screen completed video portraits in class and facilitate a discussion on the storytelling techniques used and the impact on the audience.

Assessment

- Students will be assessed based on the effectiveness of their video portraits in capturing the subject's personality, emotions, and experiences. Evaluation criteria may include the quality of the interview, storytelling coherence, technical proficiency in filming and editing, and overall impact on the audience.

Extension Activity: Collaborate with other classes or community organizations to showcase video portraits at school events or film festivals. Video Portraits are perfect for submitting in the Documentary Shorts category.