

# Making Media Easy

## How To Create A Storyboard



### Storyboarding A Film

Learn the process of storyboarding a film by using the Storyboard Template to help draw your story. You will write a story, break it down into actions, and then think about what type of camera shot will best capture your actions. Learn about a few different shot types to best capture a scene.

#### What do you need?

- pencil, paper, eraser
- Storyboarding A Film Template

#### Let's start

1. Plan a story.
  - Start by thinking of a theme, eg 'healthy living'.
  - Brainstorm ideas and choose one to make into a story in pictures.
  - Make your story about one character performing an action, eg in the video we see 'a girl brushes her teeth'.
2. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end. Here are some hints:
  - in the beginning, introduce a character
  - in the middle, make the character do an action

- at the end, have the character resolve the action

#### 3. Keep your story simple.

- Make sure you don't include things in your story that you can't film, like an aeroplane or a dinosaur!

#### What's next?

##### 1. Write action points.

- Break your story down into action points. These are also called 'story points'. Write between five and eight points.
- Write a list like the one in the video.

The story points Kathy describes are:

- 1) girl walks into bathroom
- 2) girl picks up toothbrush
- 3) girls brushes teeth

##### 2. Plan shot types.

- Think about how you can tell your story in pictures.
- Shot types are important because they determine how the audience sees what is happening in the story (ie how close they are to the action).
- Look at the DIY Film video to help you. You can have:

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- a wide shot (WS) – you can see all of Kathy and the room
- a mid shot (MS) – you can see half of Kathy, from her waist up
- a close-up (CU) – you can only see Kathy's head and shoulders

### 3. Write down your shot types.

- Think about how closely you want the audience to see the action.
- Next to your list of action or story points, write WS, MS or CU.

Using Kathy's example again:

- 1) girl walks into bathroom – WS
- 2) girl picks up toothbrush – CU
- 3) girls brushes teeth – MS

### 4. Fill in your storyboard.

- Use the Storyboarding A Film Template.
- The template has six main rectangles. Each rectangle has areas for you to write above and below it.
- Look closely at the first rectangle.
  - Write '1' for your first shot and action/story point in the Shot Number area.
  - Write the shot type 'WS', 'MS' or 'CU' (depending on what you have decided) in the shot area.

- Then write the location (the place where your story is taking place) in the location area.

- In the description area below, write the description – the action that the audience will see in this shot.
- Now, in the main rectangle, draw the picture for shot number 1 in pencil. Imagine drawing the picture as you might see it through the camera.
- Try to frame your objects the same way you would if you filmed the action, eg for a medium shot you should only draw a picture of a person from the waist up

### 5. Fill in the rest of the rectangles for every action or story point.

After you have finished storyboarding your whole story, you can use the plan to make a film!

## Remember

- Keep your stories short.
- You can use this Storyboarding A Film Activity for all sorts of films, including stop motion animation.
- Make sure your stories are about things that you could actually film in real life.
- Experiment with shot types by using a camera. Practise setting up some camera equipment and zooming in and out.

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### What have you learned?

- List three things which you didn't know before doing this activity.
- Present your Storyboards in class.
- Discuss as a class what types of stories worked well as storyboards and why.