OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT FORMS FOR SHOOTING AND EDITING PROJECTS 1—6

Outcomes assessment is a recent development in education that looks in detail at what students can do, rather than what they know. Teachers can use it to state a full range of criteria for a given piece of work, and teacher and student subsequently have a broad ground for discussion. For each project, a list of desired positive outcomes shows the student what aspects of his or her work are important and to what group each belongs. The criteria should be a balance of the conceptual, creative, and technical, or students will concentrate on smooth technique rather than trying to say something—which should always be the object of every piece of work.

Students can see their cumulative development from the first project onward, and because scores take the form of a bar graph, can recognize and correct persistent weaknesses and rejoice in accomplishments. Many teachers will want their students to score their own and other students' work as practice in evaluating screen work.

SCORING METHOD

After each project is a list of desirable facets for you or your group to assess according to agreement. Numbers aren't in themselves useful but having to make decisions about relative quality is. The five-point scale of agreement is:

Not true or not applicable	0
Only minimally true	1
Somewhat so	2
Average and acceptably so	3
Considerably so	4
Unusually and strikingly so	5

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Editing	Action match cuts are smooth and natural-looking.	012345
	Uses match cuts on major moments of action to bridge shots wherever possible.	012345
	Match-cuts between two sizes of same action use an image size change that is large enough to make a natural-looking cut. (If size-change is too small it looks like a messy jump cut.)	012345
	Rhythm of footsteps is perfectly matched.	012345
	Cutting from angle to angle feels natural and motivated.	012345
	Overall editing rhythm feels natural.	012345
Camera operating	Camera movements are so smooth they seem entirely motivated by the subject's movements.	012345
	Pans and tilts sync with motivating action, neither ahead nor behind.	012345
Composition	Camera height is varied to create interesting angles.	012345
	Framing and composition on static shots is excellent.	012345
	Compositions create maximum perspective and depth.	012345
	Lead space ahead of subject is well judged.	012345
	Compositional proportions around subject are maintained between images of different sizes.	012345
Blocking	Screen direction of subject remains logical.	012345
	Does not "cross the line"? (If you did, try using safety coverage such as close shots of feet walking to space out and disguise the mismatched shots.)	012345
Human presence and	Actor looks so unselfconscious that footage could pass for documentary.	012345
continuity	Nature and speed of actions is consistent from angle to angle.	012345
	Mood changes and development makes a character of compelling interest.	012345
	Where she's come from and where she is going is suggested interestingly by acting, props, costuming, etc.	012345
Dramaturgy	Sequence has a natural and satisfying arc of development and conclusion.	012345
	TOTAL	

ASSESSMENT Proj. 1A, B (EDITING)

ASSESSMENT Proj. 1C: & 3C (MUSIC)

Music use	The music made a valid, not facile contribution.	012345
	Music was chosen that didn't drown particular sound effects (SFX). Places were left in sound mix for natural effects to "bleed through."	012345
	Particular cuts or sections of movement were effectively repositioned to fit the rhythmic dictates of the music.	012345
	Music started at a natural point in the sequence.	012345
	Music ended naturally.	012345
	Using music added new layers of meaning and impact.	012345
	TOTAL	

ASSESSMENT Proj. 2A (BLOCKING, ACTING, AND CAMERAWORK)

Blocking and	The setting is used throughout to great advantage. (Often	012345
use of	settings get used as a generalized "container" instead of as than	
location	active component in the story.)	
	The essential action is always visible.	012345
	The action is in wide shot whenever necessary.	012345
	The action is in close shot whenever necessary.	012345
	Main character's movements are predominantly contrived to happen down the depth of the frame and create depth.	
	No actions came out of nowhere. One always saw a transitionary movement or action when it was needed.	012345
Acting	We learn something about the main character from everything he/she does.	012345
	He/she looks naturally occupied throughout.	012345
	One gets a good sense of how he/she spent time previous to this scene.	012345
	One can guess something about the day he/she anticipates.	012345
	There is considerable variation of mood and rhythm in what he/she does.	012345
	Main character is natural and there are no dips in credibility.	012345
	One gets the sense of a whole character with some issues bearing upon him/her.	012345
Dramaturgy	The piece is consistently interesting to watch.	012345
	The piece has an overall sense of development.	012345
	We see a whole complex character emerge.	012345
	There is evidence of personality conflicts and unfinished business.	012345
	The pace of the development does not lag or get stuck.	012345
	The piece feels resolved and finishes satisfyingly.	012345
	The high spot in the piece occurs where it should, not late or early.	012345
	The piece accomplishes its mission within the four-minute time requirement.	012345
Camerawork	The camerawork feels natural and unobtrusive.	012345
	There are changes in camera height and all are motivated.	012345
	The camera seeks to relate Main character to everything he is doing. (For instance, shoot over the toaster at Main character's face waiting for toast to pop up, rather than show toaster, then pan to Main character waiting.)	012345

Composition is always in control. (Action isn't held safely wide so one feels one is watching a stage performance.)	0 1 2 3 4 5
Main character's movements onscreen are always at the right distance, never so close that the audience feels seasick.	012345
The camera was never taken by surprise.	012345
The camera never illegitimately anticipated what was going to happen next.	012345
TOTAL	

Interaction	VO doesn't over inform and suffocate audience.	012345
between voice	VO doesn't under inform and leave audience guessing.	012345
over (VO) and	The order of showing and telling is always intelligent.	012345
picture	No duplication between what we see and what we hear.	012345
	There are ample "breathing spaces" in the VO during which audience can examine central character's actions and make its interpretation as perceptions arise.	012345
	Thoughts seem to arise out of what character does, as he does it.	012345
	Nicely ironic juxtapositions exist between words and actions.	012345
Acting	Voice sounds completely spontaneous, not "reading."	012345
C	Voice is naturally paced for the content.	012345
	Voice mood, and mood changes, all believable.	012345
	Central character, both in voice and in action, emerges as interesting and credible.	012345
Recording	Well recorded, intimate on-mike voice quality.	012345
Editing and mix	Ratio of VO to action is nicely judged, and action can "breathe."	012345
	In the movement back and forth between VO and diagetic tracks the level changes are well judged and sound natural.	012345
Dramaturgy	Audience is encouraged to observe and make its own judgments	0 1 2 3 4 5
	Sometimes the juxtapositions provocatively contradict what audiences sees (and keep them guessing and therefore actively involved in decision-making).	012345
	Central character fully developed with agenda, obstacles, and something to overcome.	012345
	There is a resolution.	012345
	The character develops.	012345
	Using VO is motivated and justified.	012345
	VO contributes to the sense of a completed dramatic arc in the piece.	012345
	TOTAL	

ASSESSMENT Proj. 2B, C (INTERIOR MONOLOGUE)

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Structure	There are clear developmental phases in the sequence	012345
	like acts in a play.	
	The sequence has an overall rhythmic development that	012345
	is satisfying and "right."	
	There is a clear peak and "turning point."	012345
	The sequence is neither too short nor too long.	012345
Form	The sequence flows and does not seem fragmented (if it	012345
	did, this would point to a lack of sub-sequences each	
	with its own beginning, middle, and end).	
Content	A strong mood is established.	012345
	The piece deals with what one expects of that setting.	012345
	The piece shows some of the unexpected.	012345
Point of view	There is a strongly defined observing consciousness at	012345
	work here (anger, fear, lethargy, hedonism, etc.).	
	The point of view develops and changes.	012345
Use of sound	Natural sound plays a narrative part in the sequence.	012345
	Natural sound supplies an emotionally laden atmosphere.	012345
Impact	The sequence has a strongly sensual impact and mood.	012345
	TOTAL	

ASSESSMENT Proj. 3A: (DRAMATIZING AN ENVIRONMENT)

Editing	Action match cuts flow smoothly.	012345
	Screen directions are correctly maintained.	012345
	Room geography is revealed as necessary, and not confusingly for a first-time viewer.	012345
	Convincing dialogue rhythms are maintained even when a picture cut happens in mid-sentence.	012345
	Moments of significant action and charged silence have been fully exploited.	0 1 2 3 4 5
	Changes of scene rhythm occur convincingly with changes in the characters' moods, perceptions, thought patterns, and actions.	012345
	Eyeline shifts have been fully exploited. (The most natural of all cutting points occurs when a character shifts his eyeline; we immediately want to see what he is seeing.)	0 1 2 3 4 5
	No character makes a major change of position offscreen. (A screen convention, not always obeyed, is that when cutting back to a character, we find him as we last saw him. Transitional movements are often shown, rather than heard or implied.)	0 1 2 3 4 5
	Editing appropriately and consistently shows characters as either the actor or the acted-upon.	012345
Point of view	The scene is shot and cut to convey a discernible point of view (that is, it effectively reveals the state of mind of the main character or of the storyteller).	012345
	The scene makes psychological sense, that is, it moves us close or far from the action in answer to one's needs as an audience member.	012345
	The game (or other shared activity) is used to effectively reveal psychological changes in the characters.	0 1 2 3 4 5
Dramaturgy	The game develops convincingly.	012345
	The environment is fully utilized by the characters and made into an active component in the drama.	012345
	There are no redundancies of dialogue, action, or angle, etc.	012345
	The scene feels right in length (better to feel a little short than too long).	012345
	The scene implies back-story and what might come after.	0 1 2 3 4 5

ASSESSMENT Proj. 4A, B (DIALOGUE SCENE)

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holds one's interest throughout.	012345
are engaging and natural throughout.	012345

Impact	The piece holds one's interest throughout.		012345
	The actors are engaging and natural throughout.		012345
	Significant subtexts are implied.		012345
		TOTAL	

Authorship	Situation included all necessary expository detail.	012345
and directing	Exposition was artfully concealed in the action.	012345
	A definite point of view emerged.	012345
	The piece was revealing of the characters' relationships.	012345
	There was a definite premise and the piece delivered on it.	012345
	Pacing was excellent throughout.	012345
	There was a clear structure to each dramatic unit.	012345
	The beats were clear and effective.	012345
	All actors were at ease.	012345
Acting	Actors were equally active; nobody took passive position.	012345
	Actors were listening and in communion with each other.	012345
	Each character was sharply drawn and credible.	012345
	Each character's agenda was evident.	012345
	Mobile, handheld coverage was well framed throughout.	012345
Camerawork	Camera was where it needed to be at all times	012345
	Camera was never caught by surprise.	012345
	Mobile coverage motivated by characters' movements worked well throughout.	012345
	Close detail and close ups always came when the audience needed them.	012345
	Camera coverage managed to juxtapose crucial elements in the frame whenever it was important.	012345
	Sound coverage was consistently good.	012345
Sound	Sound edited seamlessly together.	012345
	The mike was never in frame.	012345
Editing	Any action match cuts flowed smoothly.	012345
	Screen directions are correctly maintained.	012345
	Room geography is revealed as necessary, and not confusingly for a first-time viewer.	012345
	Convincing dialogue rhythms are maintained even when a picture cut happens in mid-sentence.	012345
	Moments of significant action and charged silence have been fully exploited.	012345
	Changes of scene rhythm occurs convincingly with changes in the characters' moods, perceptions, thought patterns, and actions.	012345
	Eyeline shifts have been fully exploited.	012345

ASSESSMENT Proj. 5A, B, C IMPROVISED SCENE

	No character makes a major change of position offscreen.	012345
	Editing appropriately and consistently shows characters as either the actor or the acted-upon.	012345
Point of view	The scene is shot and cut to effectively reveal the state of mind of the main character or of the storyteller.	012345
	The scene makes psychological sense by "abreathing," that is, it moves us close or far from the action in answer to one's needs as an audience member.	012345
	The action effectively reveals psychological changes in the characters.	012345
Dramaturgy	The piece develops convincingly.	012345
	The environment is fully utilized by the characters and made into an active component in the drama.	012345
	There are no redundancies of dialogue, action, or angle, etc.	012345
	The scene feels right in length (better to feel a little short than too long).	012345
	The scene implies back-story and what might come after.	012345
Impact	The piece holds one's interest throughout.	012345
	Significant subtexts are implied.	012345
	The piece makes a real and moving statement.	012345
	TOTAL	

Authorship	Each situation included all necessary expository detail.	012345
and directing	Exposition was artfully concealed in the action.	012345
	A definite point of view emerged.	012345
	Each piece was revealing of the character.	012345
	There was a definite premise and each piece delivered on it.	012345
	Pacing was excellent throughout.	012345
	There was a clear structure to each dramatic unit.	012345
	The beats were clear and effective.	012345
Acting	Actors were at ease.	012345
	Each character was sharply drawn and credible.	012345
	Each character's agenda was evident.	012345
Camerawork	Mobile, handheld coverage was well framed throughout.	012345
	Camera was where it needed to be at all times.	012345
	Camera was never caught by surprise.	012345
	Mobile coverage motivated by characters' movements worked well throughout.	012345
	Close detail and close ups always came when the audience needed them.	012345
	Camera coverage managed to juxtapose crucial elements in the frame whenever it was important.	012345
Sound	Sound coverage was consistently good.	012345
	Sound edited seamlessly together.	012345
	The mike was never in frame.	012345
Editing	Any action match cuts flowed smoothly.	012345
	Screen directions are correctly maintained.	012345
	Room geography is revealed as necessary, and not confusingly for a first-time viewer.	012345
	Moments of significant action and charged silence have been fully exploited.	012345
	Changes of scene rhythm occur convincingly with changes in the characters' moods, perceptions, thought patterns, and actions.	012345
	Eyeline shifts have been fully exploited.	012345
	No character makes a major change of position offscreen.	012345
	Editing appropriately and consistently shows characters as either the actor or the acted-upon.	012345
Point of view	The scene is shot and cut to effectively reveal the state of mind	012345
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ASSESSMENT Proj. 6A, B, C, D (PARALLEL STORYTELLING)

	of the main character or of the storyteller.	
	The scene makes psychological sense by "abreathing," that is, it moves us close or far from the action in answer to one's needs as an audience member.	012345
	The action effectively reveals psychological changes in the characters.	012345
Dramaturgy	The piece develops convincingly.	012345
	The environment is fully utilized by the characters and made into an active component in the drama.	012345
	There are no redundancies of dialogue, action, or angle, etc.	012345
	The scene feels right in length.	012345
	The scene implies back-story and what might come after.	012345
Impact	The piece holds one's interest throughout.	012345
	Significant subtexts are implied.	012345
	The piece makes a real and moving statement.	012345
	TOTAL	

ASSESSMENT Proj. 6A, B, C, D (SUPPLEMENT—PARALLEL STORYTELLING)

Parallel stories	Each portion of each story consistently contributes to its counterpart.	012345
	The rhythms of cross-cutting seem balanced.	012345
	There are a number of interesting counterpoint moments.	012345
	Movement is sometimes used as a cutting point between stories.	012345
	Dialogue is sometimes used as a cutting point between stories.	012345
	The frames of each story 'design' well with each other.	012345
	The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.	012345
	TOTAL	

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