

Editing Workshop

Suggested Activities

ACTIVITY: Analyzing editing speed

- Select a short clip that uses rapid-fire editing (possibly from a recent action film).
- Before playing the clip, tell the students to count the number of cuts in the clip as they watch.
- Ask afterwards: “What effect did this style of editing have on you? Why do you think the filmmaker chose to edit in this fashion?”

ACTIVITY: Identifying the four types of editing considerations

- Select a clip or clips that prominently display one or more editing considerations. For instance, you could use a music video for rhythmic editing.
- Ask the students: “Describe the four types of editing considerations in this clip/these clips. Which do you think were most important to the filmmaker, and why?”
- Can give a chart of the four editing considerations to students, to be used as template for the exercise and for further assignments

ACTIVITY: Analyzing the interaction between different formal aspects of film

- Watch a clip that displays continuity editing with sound. Then watch it without sound.
- Ask afterwards: “What effect did watching without sound have on you? How do editing techniques interact with other formal features (like sound) to preserve a sense of continuity?”
- Note: You could adapt this exercise to look at the interaction between editing and mise-en-scène by looking at how directors have emphasized continuity through the use of color, for instance (examples here include *The Thin Blue Line* (Errol Morris, 1988) and *All about My Mother* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1999)).

ACTIVITY: Comparing and contrasting editing techniques

- “Compare and contrast the editing techniques used in [2 clips]. Why do you think the filmmakers chose to use these techniques? How do these techniques interact with plot and character development?”

Editing Workshop ~ Suggested Activities ~ p. 2

ACTIVITY: Developing communication skills through close readings of film

- Break students into small groups, and have each group develop a close analysis of a different film clip to present to the class.
- If emphasizing editing, tell the class to be sure to discuss editing considerations and the types of edits used during their presentations.

ACTIVITY: Understanding the connections between editing techniques and film narrative

- Prompt: "Pretend you are the director of a documentary about high-school students in Hong Kong. Storyboard the opening minute of your film. Be sure to explain the purpose of each edit."