

CMS.998/CMS.600: New Media Literacies  
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Lecture Notes

Session 25, 5/16/07

Learning Week: Video Editing

- Video editing is an important digital production skill in today's web 2.0 environment
  - You're going to be able to practice video editing yourself today
- Film editors work with many different layers of media: image, audio, etc
- It's rare today for you to see any professional video that hasn't been edited
  - There's film editing vs. mise en scene
  - These are two separate theories of how to create meaning and interest within film
  - Right now, most film and television are a combination of these two styles
- Today digital editing software has made it really easy for people to edit their own video at home
- The old method of editing film by cutting it with a razor and taping it together was painful and difficult. Digital film editors make everything much easier.
- An example of unedited video vs. edited video
  - Unedited: Teenage Heartbreaks Vlog#1  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX9eclCp8Ck>
  - Edited: First Blog / Dorkiness Prevails  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-goXKtd6cPo>
  - The second one looks better: it has more going on in a shorter period of time, it has better lighting and audio
- Montage – you take many different parts and put them all together
  - This is edited film
  - There are a lot of different styles and decisions involved in montage
  - You can combine opposing images to create a totally new idea.
    - Eisenstein compared this to Chinese writing, where you can combine the characters for “woman” and “child” to make the word for “good”
  - Tonal montage, associational montage: more based on the mood that you want to convey
  - Intellectual montage: based on intellectual ideas
  - Editing styles have changed over time. Cuts have gotten faster since the advent of television and music video.
    - Although editing used to be really fast during the silent era too

- Sound equipment was heavy and more difficult to move around to create a lot of montage
  - Soviet montage editing went away after the advent of sound
- Some example silent clips put together at home
  - Clip 1: this was shot in sequence, very easily put together. It is very clear and easy to understand.
  - Clip 2: this was edited, using all the same images and clips from the first clip. It is more visually interesting, but perhaps also more difficult to understand
  - Clip 3: the same clip, but with music added, which makes a big difference.
- Practice your own video editing!