

SECOND ASSIGNMENT (February 2 - February 8)

SCRIPTED SPEECH OR MONOLOG

PREPARATION:

- Check out the camera with the wireless mikes. Put one receiver on the camera and one of the wireless microphones on one member of the group. Try to capture sound (speech) from various distances.
- Write a short introduction or narrative paragraph for your video. Share it with your instructor who will give you feedback on content and grammar. You may not be able to script the full introduction or summary remarks until you have done the actual interviews. But you should be able to prepare part of the intro or part of the narrative voice to cover documentary shots. You can always script and film the full intro later. Just remember, before it goes on the video tape, it goes on your instructor's desk.
- Discuss in your group, who is delivering the narrative (you could try two actors and pick the better take). Discuss location - think of an interesting background. Discuss what the actor should do while speaking - moving slowly into the camera? Be seated the whole time with the camera slowly zooming in? Be standing up and then move towards a place to sit down? Communicate clearly to the cameraman what the actor is going to do so he/she is ready to follow with the camera.

CAMERA WORK:

- Film the member of the group (actor) delivering the introduction or the narrative paragraph you prepared. Have the actor say the lines a couple of times before you start shooting to get familiar with the text and to feel comfortable in front of the camera. Your footage should be shot in good light. You may want to do a couple of takes to experiment with a pan or a zoom. Make sure your footage is well focused and sharp [*scharf*].

VIDEO BASICS

THE LOGBOOK

Now is a good time to start using a logbook. Assign this task to one member of the group. A logbook basically logs or records all takes on a tape and makes comments about the quality. This is very important for later when you start editing. You will be able to find a particular take or shoot easily when you know where it is on the tape.

Here is an example of a log we did while filming in Switzerland.

Produktion: Drehort: Bern

Drehtag:	1
Datum:	Dienstag, der 9. Juli 1996
Sujet:	Dokaufnahmenen in der oberen Stadtmitte
00.04.30	Dach / Dächer
	Balkonszene zum Münstersturm hin, andere Richtung (gut)
00.08.00	Hintergrundsgeräusche, Balkon
00.09.50	Hintergrundsgeräusche, Verkehr
00.09.50	Blumen im ersten Fenster, 2 Einstellungen (beide gut)
00.11.18	Blumen im zweiten Fenster, 2 Einstellungen (erste am besten)
00.11.50	Brunnen am Münsterplatz

THE BUILT-IN MICROPHONE

The built-in microphone on your camcorder can't be beat for convenience. It's always there, it's always on, it's always pointing at what you are filming. But that's also one of the profound disadvantages - the microphone is on the camera not where the subject is who is speaking. If your subject is more than a few feet away, the camera microphone will not pick up the sound. The powerful zoom lens exaggerates this problem - the picture looks as if you are right up close, but the sound is faint and hollow.

CLIP-ON LAVALIER MICROPHONES

A tie-clip microphone is known generally as *Lavalier mike*. It's a great way to dramatically improve the audio on your footage. There are two types of Lavalier microphones: the ones with a cord that plugs into your camera and the wireless microphones. The advantage of the wireless microphones is that your subject can be far away from the camera and moving without tripping over a cord. Wireless microphones come in two parts: The microphone worn by the actor or speaker and the receiver that clips onto the camcorder and plugs into the MIC IN jack on your camcorder. The receiver picks up the sound signal that's transmitted by radio waves. Watch out for external noise when filming. If you can hear a person sneeze, an airplane fly by, or a car drive by, the camera will record the sound. Be absolutely quiet when the camera is rolling. Use hand signals only to communicate with your team members. If you have interference or external noises, stop the shooting, wait, and start again.

WHICH MICROPHONE SHOULD I USE?

Built-in camera microphone: For getting documentary style pictures, establishing shots, panning sequences, zooming.

Wireless microphones: For speeches, scripted monologues, interviews, and scripted dialogues (put a wireless mike on each person).