The film portfolio

IB DP Film portfolio full package

The film portfolio

- choose three **production roles** that stretch your skills;
- complete filmmaking exercises and experiments in each role;
- document your **intention**, **process** and reflection with real evidence;

The film portfolio (2)

- plan a 9-minute reel with one completed film;
- reflect on each role with specific lessons, including what failed.

The production roles

- **Screenwriter**: she writes a three-page screenplay in standard format: scene headings (INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT), action, names and dialogue. One page is about one minute of screen time; her first draft runs to six pages, and she learns to cut dialogue that the images already show.
- **Cinematographer**: she films one short scene three times: in flat window light, with **three-point lighting** (key, fill and back light), and with a single hard key light from one side. Side by side, the single key light gives the scene its tension.
- **Editor**: she repeats the **Kuleshov effect**: she cuts a friend's neutral face with three different shots and asks classmates what the face shows.

Evidence and the portfolio pages

- Weak **reflection**: "I learned a lot about lighting and became more confident."
- Strong reflection: "The flat window light made the argument look like a sitcom. Moving to a single hard key from the left threw half of each face into shadow, so the audience could not fully read either character. Next time I will test the lighting before the actors arrive, because my second test was ruined by a shadow from the microphone boom."

The film reel

- The **film reel** is a video of at most 9 minutes: at most **3 minutes per role**, and one of the three must be a **completed film** .
- The reel shows the work in motion, and it must match the pages: the test shots on the pages should appear on the reel.
- **Worked example: a reel plan.**
- The total is 8:15, so there is time in hand under the 9-minute limit, and each role stays under its 3-minute cap.

Sources for this lesson

- International Baccalaureate, *Film guide* (first assessment 2019).
- R. Rodriguez, *Rebel Without a Crew* (1995), on the making of *El Mariachi*.
- L. Kuleshov, *Kuleshov on Film*, ed. and trans. R. Levaco (1974).
- B. Brown, *Motion Picture and Video Lighting* (3rd edition, 2018).

Common errors

- Choosing three roles that use the same skills, so the portfolio shows no range.
- Showing only finished clips, with no evidence of **process**.
- Writing reflections about feelings instead of specific craft lessons.

Common errors (2)

- Hiding failures, which are the best evidence of learning.
- Going over 3 pages or 3 minutes for a role, or forgetting the completed film.
- Pages and reel that do not match each other.

Key terms

- **Film portfolio**: portfolio pages and a reel showing work in three **production roles**.
- **Production role**: one of the five film jobs in the guide: **screenwriter**, **director**, cinematographer, editor or sound.
- **Three-point lighting**: a lighting set-up using a key light, a fill light and a back light.

Key terms (2)

- **Kuleshov effect**: the way the shot placed next to a face changes what the audience reads in it.
- **Completed film**: a finished short film, with beginning, middle and end, included in the reel.

Check yourself

- 1.
- What are the page and reel limits of the film portfolio? 2.
- Name the five **production roles** in the guide. 3.
- What three things should each role's pages show? 4.