

# Unit 01: Appreciating Film

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **Ongoing**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

Students will learn and appreciate how a film or video is constructed by viewing and assessing various films. Students will learn the elements of visual composition and acquire the knowledge of how to compose an entire sequence seamlessly. Students will learn how to maintain continuity and avoid common mistakes when building sequences.

## Standards

ELD standards: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit>

MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr1a	Formulate multiple ideas using generative methods to develop artistic goals and solve problems in media arts creation processes.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr1b	Organize and design artistic ideas for media arts productions.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr1c	Critique plans, prototypes and production processes considering purposeful and expressive intent.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr1d	Apply aesthetic criteria in developing, refining and proposing media arts artwork.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr2a	Organize and design artistic ideas for media arts productions.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr2b	Critique plans, prototypes and production processes considering purposeful and expressive intent.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr2c	Apply aesthetic criteria in developing, refining and proposing media arts artwork.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr3a	Understand the deliberate choices in organizing and integrating content, stylistic conventions, and media arts principles such as emphasis and tone.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cr3b	Refine and modify media artworks, emphasizing aesthetic quality and intentionally accentuating stylistic elements to reflect an understanding of personal goals and preferences.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr4a	Integrate various arts, media arts forms and content into unified media arts productions, considering the reaction and interaction of the audience, such as experiential design.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr5a	Demonstrate progression in artistic, design, technical, and soft skills, as a result of selecting and fulfilling specified roles in the production of a variety of media artworks.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr5b	Develop and refine creativity and adaptability, such as design thinking and risk taking, in addressing identified challenges and constraints within and through media arts productions.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr5c	Demonstrate adaptation and innovation through the combination of tools, techniques and content to communicate intent in the production of media artworks.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr6a	Design the presentation and distribution of collections of media artworks, considering combinations of artworks, formats and audiences.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Pr6b	Evaluate the benefits and impacts at the personal, local and social level from presenting media artworks, such as benefits to self and others.

MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Re7a	Analyze the qualities of and relationships between the components, style and preferences communicated by media artworks and artists.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Re7b	Analyze how a variety of media artworks affect audience experience and create intention through multimodal perception when addressing global issues including climate change.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Re8a	Analyze the intent, meaning and perception of a variety of media artworks, focusing on personal and cultural contexts and detecting bias, opinion and stereotypes.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Re9a	Evaluate media art works and production processes at decisive stages, using identified criteria and considering context and artistic goals.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cn10a	Access, evaluate and integrate personal and external resources to inform the creation of original media artworks, such as experiences, interests and cultural experiences.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cn10b	Explain and demonstrate the use of media artworks to expand meaning and knowledge, and create cultural experiences such as learning and sharing through online environments.
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cn11a	Demonstrate and explain how media artworks and ideas relate to various contexts, purposes, and values (e.g., social trends, power, equality, personal/cultural identity).
MA.9-12.1.2.12prof.Cn11b	Critically evaluate and effectively interact with legal, technological, systemic, and vocational contexts of media arts, considering ethics, media literacy, social media, virtual worlds, and digital identity.

## Transfer

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## Essential Questions

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- • What are you looking at when viewing a film?
- • What is film composition?
- • What makes a good film?

## Essential Understandings

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- • a wide variety of techniques are used to stimulate and educate..
- • all directors have a unique filmic style.
- • films are constructed through a series of sequences, edits and montage.
- • films have a beginning middle and end.
- • films use symbols and visuals to convey meaning.
- • how directors cut within the frame without editing.
- • that film is an art form communicating a story through the design of a three dimensional space compressed into a two dimensional image.
- • the techniques of visual storytelling.

## Students Will Know

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- • how film directors compose their shots and how to apply the same shot types to their project.
- • how to appreciate films for their construction.
- • how to employ continuity into their projects.
- • how to use editing terms when describing a sequence in a film.
- • what a sequence is and how visuals move the story forward.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • complete a graphic organizer detailing the difference between a documentary and narrative film.
- • complete a video viewing guide detailing the techniques used in films viewed in class.
- • complete an evaluation sheet detailing the breaks between acts in a feature film.
- • demonstrate an understanding of a director by writing a 2 page biographical report on a specific filmmaker and their filmic techniques.
- • demonstrate knowledge of film structure by analyzing the time and length of 3 sequences in a film detailing rising action.
- • demonstrate the understanding of film construction by writing three critiques of a feature film watched in class.
- • discuss and reflect on essential questions through discussion and writing in their Film Production Journal.
- • write a 2 page report on specific filmic symbolism and how it is used in a film watched in class.
- • write an essay on the visual symbols and meaning of a film watched in class.

## **Learning Plan**

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- • Analyze film techniques by viewing motion pictures including Potemkin, Citizen Kane, Stagecoach, Rear Window, The Third Man, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Man on Wire, Indiana Jones and including directors like Alfred Hitchcock, Sergei Eisenstein, Orson Welles, John Ford, David Lean, Stanley Kubrick, Stephen Spielberg, Jim Jarmusch, Michael Moore and Stan Brakhage.
- • Demonstrate their understanding of the language of film and how to appreciate it.
- • Discuss and reflect on essential questions through discussion and writing in their Film Production Journal.
- • Formulate criteria for film evaluation using principles of positive critique and observation of the elements of film and principles of design, and use the criteria to evaluate film.
- • Report and outline various film techniques by plotting out the “three” acts of a film or video.
- • View movies on DVDs to examine and discuss various film techniques.
- • Write reports and essays on films and film directors.

## **Materials**

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## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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