



Inspirational Films!

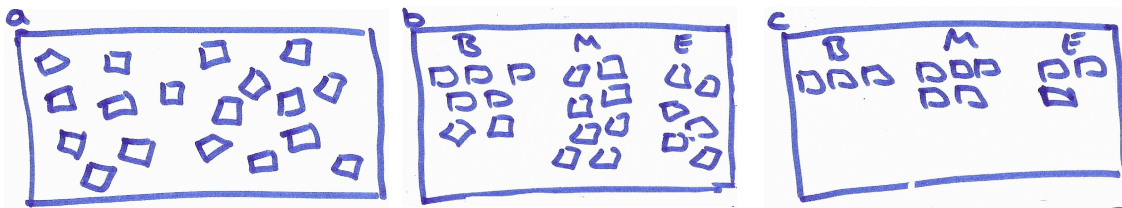
Make your own film of your  
Pay It Forward Idea

**The Ripple Effect Begins!**

# How to make an inspirational PIFD film

## DESIGN THE FILM

1. Ask yourself and your group what is the film about?
2. Use your imagination to come up with some great ideas
3. Design the film in 3 segments beginning, middle and end.  
Think of something that will grab attention at the start.



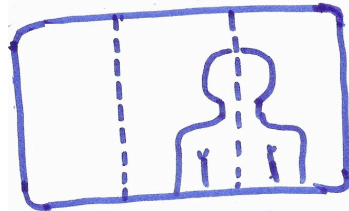
4. Brainstorm the film using post-it notes on a wall.
  - a) Jot each idea down on a note (one per note) – all ideas are good.
  - b) Sort the ideas into 3 sections – beginning, middle and end – remove ideas you will not use.
  - c) Sort each section into the order of the film.
  - d) Get shooting!
  - e) Note – during filming you will have new ideas and new opportunities will appear – make use of them without losing the essence of your story.

## TELLING THE STORY

1. An establishing shot is needed that sets the story up, i.e. wide shot of school, shopping mall bikes whizzing past etc, think about things moving not the camera moving.
2. If you do vox pops (quick interviews) ask the same question to everybody, see how many different answers you can get. You could use your interviews and vox pops to tell the story of the film.
3. Always think of the pictures to illustrate the words that have been spoken.

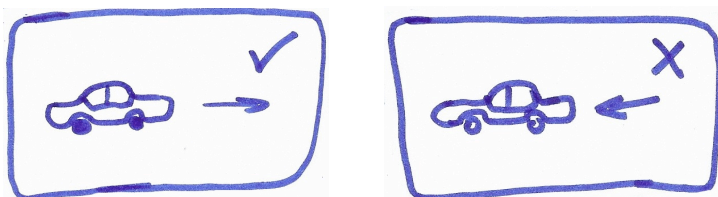
## FILMING TECHNIQUES

1. Avoid using the zooms. It's better to move in closer and shoot from another angle.
2. Use a **tripod** whenever possible.
3. If you hand hold the camera, use the wider lens positions - the shot will be much steadier particularly when walking with someone.
4. When doing an interview look for an interesting background.
5. When filming people talking or listening, position them to fill one third of the frame, not right in the middle. The same goes for panning say when someone you are filming is moving



6. When panning (moving the camera left to right or reverse) hold the start of the frame a few seconds before panning, then pan and again hold the end of the shot a few seconds, you will then have 3 shots you can use, don't just button on and off.
7. Think about close ups of action - moving legs going round hands on handle bars etc.
8. Try and get reaction shot if some one is talking just a nod or laugh what ever goes with scene.
9. Sound is all important try and record interview when it quiet or place hand held mike up close to the talent. Remember the farther you are away from the sound source the worse it will sound. (try closing eyes to hear the the sound around you)

**Crossing the line-** is something you should try to avoid. It's a simple rule - if I am filming a moving object like a car traveling left to right, any other shots of that car in that location should also travel left to right. That way the film will flow properly when edited.



## **EDITING**

1. Shorter is often better, use the best bits and keep each shot down to its minimum length required to get the message across. Watch TV and see how often the shot changes.
2. Make sure it flows well, if it doesn't it may need to be ordered differently or some connecting shots may be needed. (for instance if the story moves between two different locations then it may be good to show a quick shot to help people understand that, like you leaving the house or cycling to your destination).
3. If you use music, make sure it matches the mood you are trying to create at that moment. E.g happy (bouncy music), confused (clunky music) working hard (marching beat). You could also have fun creating your own sound effects
4. Ask friends and parents for feedback such as a) How much sense does the story make? And b) How well does it flow? Remember they are the audience and haven't seen the film before so their feedback is useful. Change what you feel is necessary whilst still staying true to your film style and message. Your unique approach is important!
5. There are many film editing software packages ranging from simple to complicated. iMovie for mac and Moviemaker for windows work well as do many others. Animoto is an interesting software that may also be useful. The internet has many sites with tips on film making and editing as well.

**Have fun and ignite your imagination !**

**Larry Meltzer**

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