

Lesson Activity

Editing and Sound

- Analysing sound tracks in film and television

Goal

- Explore the characteristics of sound tracks in film and television and the response they evoke

Summary

- To examine the soundtracks from television and film (no editing or recording technology required)

Technology used

- Video playback technology (VHS player or DVD player with a television set or video monitor, or a multimedia computer with playback facilities)
- Ideally more than one playback setup so that different groups can analyse their soundtracks at the same time



Sequence

Preparation

- Select a range of clips (maximum total length 5 minutes) from a film, from cartoons or a range of commercials - ideally including music, sound effects and dialogue

Presentation of all clips in the classroom

- Discuss initial information about the soundtracks: what is used (music, sound effects, dialogue, ..), how are different sounds combined?
- Discuss initial responses to the soundtrack: what is my emotional response to the soundtrack: happiness, sadness, annoyance, intrigued, ..

Working in groups

- Each group chooses one clip and analyses the soundtrack in more detail (use the log sheet supplied on the last page)

Presentation in the classroom

- Each group presents their results to the rest of the class

Final discussion in the classroom and / or in groups

- Discuss together or in groups what you discovered in the analytical exercise
- What is the function of a soundtrack?
- How are soundtracks constructed?
- What feelings are evoked?
- ..?

Further ideas

- Explore the flash module 'Editing and Sound'



Log Sheet 'Editing and Sound' - Analysing sound tracks in film and television

sequence image	length (seconds)	description of soundtrack sounds used	further notes
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

