

**The Two-Five Minute Genre Film Festival**

Students will explore genres to enhance their knowledge of cinematic conventions by critically analyzing a specific genre of film. You will determine distinct characteristics and audience expectations associated with that type of movie. The genre should be examined throughout history so that its timeless qualities are realized. The knowledge gained will be used to create an original short film/parody/trailer of the genre. The characteristics and the audience expectations of the genre will be inverted as part of a spoof.

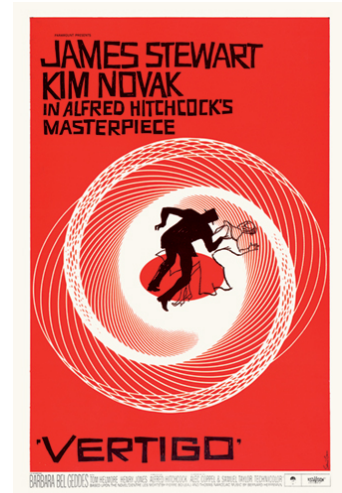
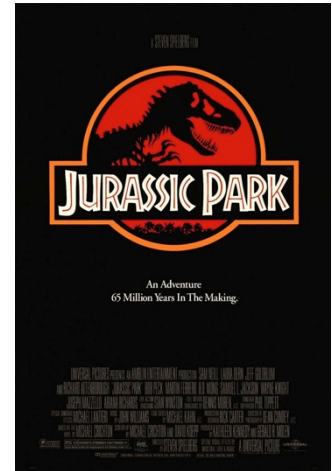
- Each member of the group should investigate the work of at least one significant film from a particular genre. The films should be from various time periods in film history that have become iconic in that genre. How did famous directors use the medium of film e.g. *mise en scene* to communicate moods and feelings?
- Plan and create a two-five (max!) minute film/parody/trailer and present genre conventions to the class.

**Tasks for all:**

- 1) ANALYSIS: In your sketchbook complete the genre movie research notes. Use the online handout as a guide.
- 2) ANALYSIS: Write an outline for your genre film; divide it into three acts.
- 3) POSTER: Create a movie Poster using Photoshop (photo) or Illustrator (logo)
- 4) POSTER: Demonstrate your creative process e.g. contact sheets of photographs and composition experiments, logo designs and colour tests

**Divide the following tasks equally between your group members**

- 5) Provide a one-page handout defining characteristics and audience expectations of the genre.
- 6) Production roles:
  - Write a treatment (see information online)
  - Create a mood board
  - Script writer
  - Script editor
  - Researcher
  - Storyboarding
  - Costume
  - Camera Operator
  - Producer / Director –*responsible for the weekly action plan / progress record*
  - Editor(s)
  - Foley / sound engineer
  - Soundtrack
  - Continuity supervisor
  - Lighting



**Before filming**, present your plan first to another group, then to the teacher for feedback.  
**Each member of the group should maintain their journal for self-reflection and production notes.**

## RESOURCES

- HANDOUTS AT [www.simpsonmacart.weebly.com](http://www.simpsonmacart.weebly.com)
- Museum of Moving Image research data base including Film Genres  
<http://www.movingimageresource.us/research>
- film genre information <http://www.filmsite.org/>  
*Glossary of key movie industry jobs:*

<http://movies.about.com/library/glossary/blglossary.htm>

## Learning Goals:

- Identify the specific characteristics and audience expectations that are associated with a film genre
- Develop a script and storyboard for a video short that is a spoof of a specific genre of filmmaking
- Present and critique each video according to a list of festival award criteria.

## Key questions:

What are the key characteristics and audience expectations associated with a specific film genre?

How can the key characteristics and audience expectations be inverted to create a parody?

Class Discussion: *What is meant by the term genre?*

Disaster movies, for example, view clips from various versions of Titanic to demonstrate how different generations translate the story and how the evolution of cinematic technique affect the final movie. War of the Worlds is also a good example for Science Fiction/Disaster movies.

## Evaluation Criteria

Will be equally distributed between knowledge of content, the critical analysis process and presentation of the research.

The storyboard should demonstrate understanding of genre characteristics.

**Film Genres**

Film genres are identifiable types, categories, classifications or groups of films that have similar techniques or conventions such as:

- content
- subject matter
- structures
- themes
- mood
- period
- plot
- settings
- recurring icons
- stock characters
- narrative events
- situations
- motifs
- styles
- props
- stars

<http://www.slideshare.net/Katrinabrookes/film-genres-14200329>

<http://www.slideshare.net/robnyland/intro-to-film-genres>

## Sub-Genre

- Sub-Genres are developed when films are created to emulate the properties of one particular genre film, rather than the conventions of the genre as a whole
- Examples of Sub-Genre
  - Spaghetti Westerns: Italian Western films made by Sergio Leone
  - Romantic Comedies: A subset of comedies that have predictable elements that are usually aimed towards women
  - Zombie Movies: Horror films that focus specifically on Zombies
  - Mockumentaries: Fake documentaries created after the style first shown in *This is Spinal Tap*

