

## Video Role Playing In-Camera Edit Exercise – Social Justice Theme

The purpose of the exercise is threefold:

- to create an interesting, hands-on way to discuss social justice issues in the classroom
- to introduce students to the technical codes of filmmaking (shots, framing, character development, scene construction)
- to familiarize students to the specific roles in a video production team

This exercise is called an in-camera edit because a scene is acted, shot and viewed without the benefit of editing. This means that each shot must be well planned and rehearsed before it is recorded.

### **Workshop length:**

- 3 hours

### **Equipment Needs:**

- 1 video camera per group
- Videotape
- Television set

### **Step 1:**

Divide students into groups of about 5 people.

Each group will need to borrow two actors from another group. If this is not possible, assign two people in each group as actors (pick two people who have no interest whatsoever in shooting, editing or directing the video). Each person in the film crew will take on one of the following roles for each shot:

- Director
- Cinematographer
- Crew

It is imperative that everybody rotates between these roles throughout the in-camera edit in order to get a clear understanding of all the roles and responsibilities in a film crew.

**Step 2:**

Choose “Social Justice Situations” to create video scenes around.

Examples:

- A stranger approaches a teenage girl at a bus stop and she feels threatened. How does she react?
- A teenage boy is shopping in a CD store. He is followed by security that assumes he will shoplift. How does he react?

**Step 3:**

Break the scene down into 5 shots. Try to use the formula:

Shot #1 - Establishing Shot  
Shot # 2 - Medium Shot (MS)  
Shot # 3 - Close-Up (CU)  
Shot #4 - Medium Shot (MS)  
Shot #5 - Re-Establishing Shot

**Step 4:**

Storyboard the scene.

**Step 5:**

Shoot the scene, following the storyboard and rotating roles in the production team (except for the actors).

The team should rehearse each shot at least once, and record only one take of each shot before moving on.

The scene should be shot in sequence (i.e. shoot the Shot#1 first, then Shot #2, etc.).