WELCOME TO CHANNEL 17/TOWN MEETING TV AT THE CENTER FOR MEDIA* AND DEMOCRACY/CCTV.

CCTV STARTED IN 1984 AS A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO USE TELEVISION TO TELL STORIES ABOUT THEMSELVES AND SHARE OPINIONS ABOUT THE WORLD.

TURN ON THE TV TO SEE YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOURSELF.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL.
Welcome to the Channel 17 Video Assignment Book.
This book contains a series of activities designed to teach you about using the camera, telling a story, asking questions and getting good shots. You can do the assignments in any order. Some work better in groups or with a partner, so you may need to find a friend to work with on this.

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* Media is anything that conveys a message. Advertisements, newspapers, web pages, television, the radio, are all examples of media.

Find out my story on page 15
IN THIS EXERCISE I WANT YOU TO TAKE ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN OBJECT. I AM DZIGA VERTOV, A RUSSIAN FILMMAKER. I WORKED FOR THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT FROM 1917 UNTIL THE 1940'S. ONE OF MY MOST FAMOUS FILMS, "A MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA," DETAILS, FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF PERSPECTIVES, RUSSIAN CITY LIFE IN 1929.

Assignment 1

Choose any object in the room and write what it is on the line: (for example "trash can")

Imagine your object has "eyes" videotape 10-20 seconds from the perspective or "point of view" of the object.

Photo from: http://www.filmreference.com/Directors-Ve-Y/Vertov-Dziga.html
FRAMING MAKES PICTURES INTERESTING. FRAMING IS HOW MUCH OR LITTLE OF YOUR SUBJECT YOU CHOOSE TO SHOW WITH YOUR CAMERA. FRAMING IS ABOUT THE SPACE AROUND YOUR SUBJECT.

ASSIGNMENT 2

SET YOUR CAMERA IN A SECURE LOCATION OR HAVE A FRIEND HOLD IT. STAND IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA AND TURN THE LCD SCREEN TO FACE YOU. PUSH RECORD.

1. HOW MUCH OF YOUR FACE CAN FIT INTO THE SCREEN?

2. BACK UP SO YOU FIT YOUR HEAD TO TOES.

3. PRETEND TO PUSH ON THE SIDE WALL OF THE "FRAME" AND HAVE SOMEONE MOVE THE CAMERA SLIGHTLY TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU ARE ACTUALLY "PUSHING" THE FRAME.

4. HAVE SOMEONE GENTLY SHAKE THE CAMERA. AN EARTHQUAKE! ACT AS IF YOU ARE IN AN EARTHQUAKE...

MAKE SURE YOUR CAMERA IS RECORDING ALL OF THIS!!!!
ALSO KNOWN AS CHROMA KEY OR GREENSCREEN. ALLLOWS YOU TO SUPERIMPOSE PROPS AND ACTORS ONTO A PRERECORDED OR IMAGINARY SCENE USING SPECIAL COLOR AND FREQUENCY REPLACEMENT TECHNOLOGY. WHEREEVER THE CAMERA ‘SEES’ BLUE IT REPLACES IT WITH ANOTHER IMAGE, PICTURE, VIDEO OR COLOR.

**GO TO THE STUDIO AND RECORD A FEW MINUTES OF YOU AND YOUR GROUP USING THE BLUESCREEN. USE YOUR CAMERA TO:**

1. RECORD SOME SHOTS USING THE BLUESCREEN,
2. RECORD SOME SHOTS OF THE CONTROL ROOM AND OPERATOR EXPLAINING THE PROCESS
3. GIVE THE OPERATOR YOUR TAPE TO RECORD YOUR GROUP USING BLUESCREEN TECHNOLOGY.

**NOT AT THE STUDIO? SKIP THIS ACTIVITY.**

**ASSIGNMENT 4**

Videotape someone from your group demonstrating, an action such as tying your shoe, doing a somersault, making a telephone call or another action of your choice.

**USE:**

* three different angles
* three shot types such as medium, close-up or wide shots
* keep it short
MOVIES USE SPECIAL EFFECTS TO MAKE THINGS LOOK, EXTREME, DRAMATIC, OLD, MAGICAL, ETC. MOST OF THESE EFFECTS ARE APPLIED AFTER FILMING, DIGITALLY, DURING EDITING. THERE ARE SOME FUN EFFECTS YOU CAN USE TO CREATE ILLUSIONS USING MATERIALS AT HAND.

THE DISAPPEARING ACT

1. WHEN RECORDING, PAUSE CHANGE THE ACTION AND THEN RESUME RECORDING. IT WILL LOOK AS THOUGH MAGICALLY THE ACTION CHANGED. FOR EX: SOMEONE SITTING IN A CHAIR, FREEZE ACTION, STOP RECORDING, REMOVE THE CHAIR START RECORDING RESUME ACTION (FALLING) YOU HAVE CREATED A SPECIAL DISSAPPEARING ACT.

DOLLY SHOTS

3. MOVE THE CAMERA SLOWLY AND SMOOTHLY (AS IF ON WHEELS OR "DOLLY") TOWARDS THE SUBJECT WHILE ZOOMING OUT. OR MOVE AWAY FROM THE SUBJECT WHILE ZOOMING IN. WITH PRACTICE CAN BE USED TO CREATE AN EERIE OR DRAMATIC EFFECT.

HOMEMADE FILTERS

2. USE SARAN WRAP, A THIN SCARF, A PLASTIC BAG OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT IS SEE THROUGH BUT CAN CREATE AN ILLUSION WHEN YOU RECORD THROUGH IT.

FORCED PERSPECTIVE

4. SET UP THE CAMERA TO RECORD DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN EXTREME PERSPECTIVE TO ONE ANOTHER. ILLUSION FOOLS THE EYE INTO MAKING OBJECTS APPEAR FARThER, CLOSER, LARGER OR SMALLER THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE.

photo credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/stuandgravy/
BLOW IS A LIST OF IMAGES THAT REPRESENT REAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA). A PSA IS LIKE AN AD, BUT INSTEAD OF SELLING YOU A THING IT IS TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU TO TAKE AN ACTION.

**ACTION:**

**IMAGE(S):**

**STATEMENT (OR FACT):**

**MESSAGE:**

List an action one of the above would try to get you to take. List an image and a statement the filmmaker might use. What is their message?

**WHAT PSA WILL YOU MAKE?**

**ACTION:**

**IMAGE(S):**

**STATEMENT/FACTS:**

**MESSAGE:**
How do you SEE your story?

- Extreme Close Up (ECU)
- Close Up (CU)
- Medium Shot (MS)
- Wide Shot
- Medium Wide Shot (MWS)
- Establishing Shot (ES)
- Birds Eye
- Cat's Eye
Script:
"The process of growing plants begins with a tiny seed, with care, the right conditions and time it will grow and reward your patience with beauty and companionship." Instrumental music soft background overlay.

NOW MAKE UP YOUR OWN VERY SIMPLE SCRIPT AND DRAW A STORYBOARD WITH SHOT DIRECTIONS.

DESCRIBE THE SHOTS. USE THE TERMS YOU LEARNED:

SCRIPT:
**Assignmnt 8**

**Audio/Storyboard**

"Welcome to 294 North Winooski Avenue. You may not know it, but this place is totally cool!"

"It's the home of CCTV, the Center for Media and Democracy and Channel 17"

O.S (off screen): "This is community access, the door is open to you.."

Ask question: "What is the Center for Media and Democracy?"

**Shot Type Details**

Static M.W (medium wide) frame of talent standing next to the 294 sign.

Pan. Talent about to walk in the building's front door.

Hand-held C.U (close up) opening door.

Find Channel 17 person sitting at their computer. M.W shot with computer in frame.
Tell a short story or piece of a story here,

**AUDIO/STORYLINE**

"Hi. this is channel 17 summer camp."

"I have something to tell you."

**MUSIC**

C.U frame of the channel 17 poster in hallway.

W.S (wide shot) of talent walking down hallway towards the studio.

Wide shot of talent at studio desk. Include cameras.

Medium Wide shot of talent behind studio desk.

**NAME:**

**DATE:**
## Storyboard Template

**CU** = Close Up detail of a person, object or scene  
**MS** = Medium Shot head and shoulders, out from subject  
**WS** = Wide Shot shows the whole scene, whole person  
**ES** = Establishing Shot shows where scene is taking place

Tell a short story or piece of a story here, using words, pictures and describing the shots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audio/Storyline</th>
<th>Shot Type Details</th>
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**Name:**

**Date:**

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Look inside the word QUESTION and you find a QUEST. A journey into the lives, interests and thoughts of another person, group or idea.

Assignment 10

1. Design an open ended question, using one of the words right, that you might ask someone.

Find someone to ask and record their answer using a close up shot.

2. Design a question that starts with one of the words on the right that you would ask someone you just met.

Find someone to ask and record their answer using a medium shot.

3. What might be the next question you ask them? (The follow up question.)

Record the answer using a close up shot.

4. Design a question that begins with how. Record the answer using a wide shot.
START HERE

HELP ME GET TO THE MEETING
At the age of 11 in 1918, Philo Farnsworth moved to his new home in Idaho. This new home had something that his family had never lived with before, Electricity! Philo loved to read, but he had a particular knack for working with electricity. he fixed the farm equipment, he built machines to do farm chores that had usually been done by hand, and he imagined and tinkered. his family couldn't afford books, but the previous home's occupants had left behind a stash of science and invention magazines that he used to cultivate and nourish his imagination and discoveries. one realm particularly entranced him, the idea of sending "pictures through the air." some early names for these invention were: "radioscope," "teleramophone," "radiovisor," "telephonoscope," and finally "television." Philo studied, and met a teacher who aided and awed at his abilities. His burning ambition was to understand how pictures could be transmitted using electricity. "The summer of 1921 found Philo T. Farnsworth, age fourteen, strapped to a horse-drawn disc-harrow, cultivating a potato field row by row, turning the soil and dreaming about television to relieve the monotony. As the open summer sun blazed down on him, he stopped for a moment and turned around to survey the afternoon’s work. In one vivid moment, everything he had been thinking about and studying synthesized in a novel way, and a daring idea crystallized in this boy’s brain. As he surveyed the field he had plowed one row at a time, he suddenly imagined trapping light in an empty jar and transmitting it one line at a time on a magnetically deflected beam of electrons." After this he worked on the plans and developed a drawing which he shared with his teacher, Mr Tolman. He left in Tolman's possession a diagram of his thoughts. At the age of 15 he had drawn the plans upon which the modern television of today was built. Around the same time another inventor also formulated ideas similar to Philo's and applied for a patent. Philo was able to use the drawing held by Tolman to prove that he too had "invented" television and his name was also attached to the patent.

source: http://www.farnovision.com/tbwit/chapter1.html

I wonder what Philo would think of the television of today. The internet!?!?
WHAT KIND OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WOULD YOU INVENT? DRAW IT HERE:

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE IT BEING USED?
**ACROSS**
1. messages delivered through books, tv, they sell you something
2. they sell you something
3. to get closer to your subject using
dads, radio and more
4. things that really exist
5. what is created by the rectangular box
6. form of government that takes into consideration each of it's citizens needs
11. person on the set asking questions
12. ability to read and understand
13. what you receive from viewers on a live show
14. what a program is about
16. a room set up for recording television programs
17. what humans do with their eyes ears
18. to move from side to side with the camera

**DOWN**
3. to get closer to your subject using
4. subjects in front of the camera
5. 4, 3, 2, 1, action
6. what is being told, what a program is about
7. box of thickening moving images
8. takes the video
9. ability to read and understand
10. what happens in front of the camera
12. ability to read and understand
13. what humans do with their eyes ears
14. what a program is about
15. to see clearly, to bring into vision
16. a room set up for recording television programs
17. what humans do with their eyes ears
18. to move from side to side with the camera

**WHY ARE WE WATCHING THIS BOX?**

**WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE DOING INSIDE THAT BOX? HOW CAN WE GET THEM OUT?**
You can glue this page to card stock, cut, fold and make your own little TV. Little puppets on sticks work well as the right size talent.
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF
CCTV - CENTER FOR MEDIA AND
DEMOCRACY AND CHANNEL 17/
TOWN MEETING TV BY MAKING
YOUR OWN MEDIA!