

Lights, Camera, FILM Literacy!
Lesson Plan #28

Topics:

Journal Writing
Creating a Documentary Film
Point of View
Mad Hot Ballroom

Outcomes:

Students will follow organizational procedures.
Students will see and hear applicable vocabulary.
Students will analyze a documentary film: *MAD HOT BALLROOM*.
Students will work on the production of their documentary film.

Materials:

Writing journals
Post-it notes
Camcorders
Tripods
Computers

Handouts: *Creating a Documentary Film* (in students' folders)
Shot List (in students' folders)

DVD: *MAD HOT BALLROOM*

New Vocabulary: point of view

Sequence of Events:

I. Journal Activity (15)

Prompt:

How do you feel about creating your documentary film?

II. MAD HOT BALLROOM (115)

1. Tell students that before they move forward on creating their own films, they will be watching a feature-length documentary about 5th grade students in New York City.
Direct them to watch the film from a filmmaker's point of view.
What works?
What might they do differently?
2. Watch *MAD HOT BALLROOM* in its entirety.

DVD: *MAD HOT BALLROOM*

3. Ask first for student reaction to the content. Point out the strong emotional connection to the students at the three highlighted schools and how the filmmaker skillfully turned the viewer against the main competing school. This was the filmmaker's subtle way inserting **POINT OF VIEW**.
4. Ask for reaction to the filmmaking techniques. What did students learn by watching that might help them in creating their own quality film?

III. Producing a Documentary (55)

1. Each group reports their current step on the planning sheet.

HANDOUT: *Creating a Documentary Film* (in student folders)

2. Groups continue working through the process of creating their documentaries.

IV. Reflection (15)

1. Direct students to the hanging chart paper labeled:

What did you learn about adding point of view to a documentary film?

2. Hand out Post-its on which students write and post.
3. Review the comments on the Post-Its with the class, so students have a sense of what was learned that day.
Make sure to clear up any misconceptions.

