

VIDEO

Video Postcard

Teaching Points

Overview

The entertainment world often uses color backgrounds for the chroma-keying effect. Actors will be filmed in rooms with blue walls, floor, and ceiling; the weather man stands in front of a green-screen; sometimes actors even wear special blue or green suits for effect. This is all done to create a relatively simple, but really neat, technique of being able to move in areas the body could not naturally travel, e.g., superman flying across the sky.

Content Review

Review and/or demonstrate the following as needed:

1. Video camera basics: record with camera, capture with Firewire (IEEE 1394) cable
2. Video editing software basics: capturing files, importing files, layering files (putting files on different tracks/layers), exporting files
3. File management
4. Advanced video editing: adjusting the transparency of a video clip
5. Terms to know/review: NLE (non-linear editing) vs. analog, MOV, AVI, JPG, FireWire, keying

Activity Preparation

Prepare a wall with solid green or blue color. (Explain that green and blue are the furthest hue from flesh/skin-tones and the reason for using them. Construction paper, poster board, or bed sheets work fine if you haven't purchased a professional screen/matte.)

Show examples of former students' work (or something you've created) to give ideas of how the product should look like.

Demonstrate use of video camera and capture process.

Demonstrate importing, layering, and transparency settings in video editing software.

Demonstrate exporting.

Review the process of drafting an e-mail and Web etiquette.

Resources

Supplies needed for the activity:

Digital video camcorder

Fire Wire (IEEE 1394 Cable)
Computer with FireWire card (place to plug cable in)
Computer with video editing software
Solid colored wall (Green or blue construction paper will work great in good lighting with no shadows or wrinkles on background.)
Internet connection

Websites (and/or key words to use for search):

<http://165.248.2.40/idl2000/savesound.html>

Saving audio and video clips; includes information on citations

<http://pd.121.org/linktuts/multint.htm>

Saving audio and video files

<http://www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/gelardin/guides/Premiere/>

Using Adobe Premiere

<http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/multimedia/video/index.html>

Site with various video tutorials based on equipment

<http://search.hotwired.com/webmonkey/default.asp?query=video>

Make a selection from this site on video and other multimedia tutorials

Key words: *digital video primer, video FAQ, chroma-keying*

Books, articles, and other resources:

Brown, T. (2004). *Cubase SX for Macintosh and Windows: Visual quickstart guide*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press (Pearson Education).

Counts, E. L. (2004). *Multimedia design and production for students and teachers*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon (Pearson Education).

Lich, B. (2003). *DVD burning solutions*. Boston, MA: Thomson Publishing.

Middleton, C. (2003). *Complete guide to digital audio*. Boston, MA: Thomson Publishing.

Roback, S. (2004). *Pro Tools 6 for Macintosh and Windows: Visual quickstart guide*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press (Pearson Education).

Solomon, A. W. (2004). *Introduction to multimedia*. Columbus, OH: Glencoe (McGraw-Hill).