

Stop Motion Animation Project Brief (and notes for Rubric)

Movie topic:

Resources/medium etc:

Max/ideal length (minutes):

Due date:

TECHNICAL CHECKLIST

Story (plot)

The movie needs to communicate an idea as outlined in the project brief.

- The story could be dialogue or narrative, or a combination of both. The story should have a **start, middle and end**. It is important that each part of the story happens **for a purpose** so it is easy to understand.
- The story could be improvised or written. It can be developed by a group or individual.
- The story could be your **own idea or an existing idea**. Your own idea can be inspired by an existing story, but adapted with your own words or perspective. If you are using someone else's idea this needs to be clearly stated.

The story can primarily be told through audio, shown with pictures or use both to communicate different parts of the story.

Audio (sound)

The movie needs sound to communicate and captivate. Audio is usually a combination of dialogue, sound effects and music.

- **Create and record all audio yourself** or use audio files which you have **permission to use** (royalty free).
- All audio needs to be clear and have minimal noise, if any. All **spoken words must be clear** (diction). The **volume** of sound effects and music should not overpower the spoken words.
- The **tone** of spoken words, and selected sound effects and music should suit the tone and pace of the story.
- Audio components should be edited to create a single soundtrack **without obvious cut points**. In particular, adjust the volume at the start and end of each sound clip.

In most cases the complete audio (soundtrack) should communicate the whole idea as if it were on radio.

Pictures (images)

The movie needs pictures to show story details.

- Every part of every picture needs to assist the story. This includes background, props and characters.
- The animation actions, in the pictures, need to **match the soundtrack**.
- Each scene should have good **picture composition** and be visually interesting. In particular, the position of the talking character's eyes, and other important details should follow the 'rule of thirds'.
- **Animation actions should be smooth, realistic** and appropriate for the character and the overall story idea.
- In each scene the **focus** is set on the most important part of the picture.
- Use **lighting** to assist with good colour in the pictures and for special effects to enhance an event. Take care to avoid glares, shadows and changing levels of light.
- Use the **camera position** to assist telling the story.
- Record **enough pictures** for the entire soundtrack including for title and credits.
- Take care to **avoid picture bumps**, or unwanted items in the pictures such as your shadow or a hand in shot.

Writing (script)

For curriculum assessment there are lots of ways to involve writing in stop motion projects. These methods can be a theory component BEFORE making the movie or, if the story is improvised, retrospectively AFTER the end of the project.

There are several levels of writing when creating a stop motion animation.

Plot overview:

This is a scene by scene description of the events and character actions. From this, the actual dialogue can be improvised.

Full script:

This is an accurate transcript of dialogue with notes about character actions.

Storyboard:

This is an accurate transcript of dialogue with descriptions or illustrations of key elements in each scene. It includes notes about character actions as well as lists of locations and props.

Some notes about the place of writing

Movie School's approach, as much as possible, and where appropriate, creates the story through improvisation following a series of question prompts. This levels the participation playing field for children with a wide range of writing abilities. Once the audio for the story is recorded, sets can be built and the actions and camera angles determined scene by scene without the need to storyboard.

Rubric for Peer, Self and Teacher Assessment: Stop Motion Animation

Name:		Movie:			Date:
	1	2	3	4	
STORY <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative <input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My story included a few simple ideas and/or was random. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My story has evidence of a plot but is incomplete or doesn't make sense without explanation. I've copied someone else's idea. My story partially matches the project brief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My story has evidence of a plot. My story is mostly my own idea. My story matches the project brief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My story has a start, middle and end. Every part happens for a purpose. My story is my own idea, inspired by an existing idea, or belongs to someone else and I have permission to use it. My story matches the project brief. 	
AUDIO (Soundtrack)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have permission to use some audio. Some dialogue is difficult to hear. There are long silences. The sound effects and music were randomly selected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have permission to use most of the audio. Some dialogue is clear. The audio components are in order. The some sound effects and music match the theme of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I created and recorded all audio, or have permission to use existing audio. Most dialogue is clear. The tone of most audio components is appropriate for the story. Some editing cuts or unwanted noises can be heard in the soundtrack. The sound effects and music match the theme of the story by adding meaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I created and recorded all audio, or have permission to use existing audio. The dialogue is clear and can be heard over the sound effects and music. The tone of each audio component is appropriate for the story. All audio components have been edited to form a single soundtrack without obvious edit cuts or unwanted noises. The sound effects and music compliment the theme and enhance the storytelling by creating mood. 	
PICTURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I attempted to match pictures to character dialogue. The camera position was static or moved very often (it is hard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some animation pictures match the soundtrack. Some pictures have good composition. Some camera movements help to develop the story but some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most animation pictures match the soundtrack. Most pictures have good composition. Most camera movements help to develop the story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My pictures match the soundtrack. All pictures have focus on the important part. All pictures have good composition. Every camera movement helps to develop the story. 	

	<p>to follow what is happening without explanation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I attempted to create animation actions that suited the story, but some are random. 	<p>explanation is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some animation is smooth and realistic. • Some pictures have focus on the important part. • Some pictures have unwanted items such as a hand in shot. • I need to record more pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most animation is smooth and realistic. • Most pictures have focus on the important part. • At least one picture has unwanted items such as a hand in shot. • I have enough pictures for the entire soundtrack. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All animation is smooth and realistic. • No pictures have unwanted items such as a hand in shot. • I have enough pictures for the entire soundtrack including title and credits. • The title and credits are easy to read and spelt correctly.
<p>WRITING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plot overview <input type="checkbox"/> Script <input type="checkbox"/> Storyboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I attempted to write a script • My writing is different to the actual movie. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My written script is similar to the movie, but there are some differences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My written script matches the movie. • Most descriptions and other details are informative and accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My written script matches the movie. • All descriptions and other details are informative and accurate. • All words are spelt correctly.