

WRITING ABOUT YOUR ROLE

- You don't need to describe everything you did. Most of what you did ('I wrote a draft... I made a storyboard... I corrected the colour') is exactly the same as everyone who ever made a film. Mention and show that stuff, but save your wordcount to write about what you want them to give you your grade for.
- If you have music in your film EVERYONE IN THE GROUP needs to explain where it came from, and prove it. (A screengrab of the project file will do.) Mention what input you had to the music. (Even if it's just checking that it was ok for the film.)
- REFLECT and JUSTIFY. Description is easy and gets you very little. Sure, tell us what pre-production (or whatever) you did, but more important is that you tell us why you did it like that and whether it actually helped.
- Evidence of everything, all the time. A picture of you sitting by your friend pretending to 'plan' is not evidence of anything. An annotated storyboard or suchlike is. Don't show us you working; show us the work you did.
- DETAILED evidence. Show us a page of screenplay – good. Then show us a couple of lines of dialogue and explain why you wrote it like this – better.
- If you mention a film, put the title in bold, every single time. The first time you mention it, put the director's surname and the year of production in brackets. **Joker** (Phillips, 2019.)
- Focus ENTIRELY (or, like, 92.3 %) on your assessed role.
- Label all diagrams fig 1, fig 2 etc. And there should be LOADS of them.
- Every time you casually point out how awful your work is ('I didn't plan enough'), expect your grade to go down. They will basically give you the grade you seem to think you deserve. Self-evaluation is not the same as self-loathing.
- Avoid vagueness. Any statement like 'I did this to engage the audience' or 'This makes the film more interesting' is pointless. (EVERYTHING we do is to engage the audience.) Say WHY it will engage the audience.
- Be techy. If appropriate, talk about f-stops, shutter speeds, lens choices, masking, flux capacitors. You don't need much of this stuff (though some kids have loads and do very well) but do try to show you understand a little of the technical side.

WRITING ABOUT COLLABORATION

- This is considerably harder for most students and generally gets the lowest grade of the whole project. Needs a little thought and planning.
- Don't describe what you did. ('We did a brainstorm.') EVALUATE IT. Was your brainstorm useful? (Tip- a lot of what we do is of limited use. You need to show awareness of what you did that was useful and what probably wasn't so useful.)
- Anyway, you shouldn't be writing much about your group. It's YOUR contribution to the evaluation process. Lots of 'I' and very little 'we.' Lots of what YOU did, not what WE did.
- How to show that your groupwork contribution was successful. Whatever you are seeking credit for ('I collaborated with the cinematographer and annotated a storyboard to figure out the editing') should end with something like 'and here is the bit of the film that is better as a result.' If what you did didn't improve the film, it's probably irrelevant. Oh, and evidence it, of course – if you say you collaborated with someone, make sure there is

FIX YOUR COMMENTARY (For the love of God)

evidence of that collaboration (and no the afore-mentioned picture of you sitting beside them...)

- Again, DETAIL. Legible extracts from your storyboard are way better than a tiny picture of a whole page which we can't read. One proves you did a storyboard. Big deal. The other allows you to go into detail about the nature of your framing, composition and so on, or, indeed, the nature of what exactly you collaborated about. DETAIL.
- Don't make excuses, Yes, we know Hong Kong society suffered complete breakdown while you were filming and everything got messed up. You can mention that once, maybe, but they aren't going to give you extra marks or take pity on you or anything. So the only reason to mention it is to explain what you did to manage the situation ("I adjusted the production schedule; I shortened the film; I used a different location; I recorded some sounds of the protest and used them in the film...") If you aren't making a point about your collaborative kills, don't even mention it.