Instructional Unit Title: Film and Cinematography

Fundamental Pathway

The teacher may introduce an animated short film (e.g., Pixar shorts), so that students can differentiate between animated film genres.

The teacher may provide students with 30-second clips and basic instruction of how to edit captured video, so that students can create shot for shot recreations of their 30-second clip discovering angles, lighting and cinematic devices used in defining genre.

The teacher may introduce criteria for a full-length motion picture critique, so that students can critique a full-length motion picture while being able to make informed responses on the execution of elements of genre.

The teacher may introduce a short film (live action), so that students can differentiate between film genres using short films.

The teacher may provide students with 1-minute clips and instruction of how to orally critique, so that students can create presentations breaking down their 1-minute clip to analyze genre aspects.

The teacher may provide students with 30-second clips and instruction of how to screen capture slides of the clip, so that students can create presentations breaking down each shot (while using a screen capture) to analyze uses of lightning, angles, pans, etc.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: You are a film critic for an entertainment team from a local newspaper/magazine. Your team prides themselves on understanding the specific requirements of particular genres of film (e.g., plot lines, character types, and cinematography elements). Your team’s deadline is approaching to submit your latest reviews of films in the following genres: horror, sci-fi, action, and/or romantic comedy. You and your writing team will need to submit a full review to your editor that has been drafted in almost final copy.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples.