

CASTING & PRODUCTION FOR REALITY TV



Reality television is a classic example of the way media can construct a reality and the way that the audience of that reality can willingly suspend its disbelief. We know it is not reality we are watching but we usually choose to ignore that - otherwise it wouldn't be any fun.

The final product of any reality tv show is a construction of selected representations. The decisions made by the Producers is created via a process of selection and omission construction.

Selection = What they choose to keep

Omission = What they choose to remove



Your task will be to create your own Reality Television Show from scratch. This assessment task is in three parts: (YOU CAN WORK IN PAIRS OR SOLO)

1. **CASTING** – The initial selection process. What representations will you have on your show.
2. **PRODUCING** – Behind the scenes to capture the magic moments.
3. **EDITING** – The process of Selection & Omission in post production.

Part 1: CASTING:

For this part of the task you are required to make a list of your cast members. What representations are you creating? Who will you cast? What are you looking for? What questions will you ask your applicants to respond to. **You must have a min of 8 cast members.**

How you present this is up to you. Some examples could be:

- Source images that represent what you are looking for.
- Find adjectives that describe your stereotypes.
- Make a list of questions that you will be using to interview your applicants.
- Explain in detail how you are going to find your applicants? Ask them to send in video? Interview style? Get them to perform for you? Make things for you? This will of course depend on your Reality TV show. All of these things must be documented.

Part 2: PRODUCING:

This is the part where you are positioned as the Producer of your Reality TV show. You are to utilise the representations you have cast and create an impactful television series for your target audience. You will need to consider what to select and what to omit.

For this assessment task you are required to create one episode and utilise every character you have cast.

How you present this is completely up to you. Some ideas include:

- Storyboards (you can draw or source images of your representations)
- Script (make sure you include some images)
- Location and Setting images
- Moving Image

Selection = What they choose to keep

Omission = What they choose to remove

Part 2: EDITING:

For this part you will need to create a BITE. This is a 30 second clip of your characters saying or doing something that will be used to promote your Reality Show to your target audience. You will need to look at your cast and your location and create a scenario from the material collected by your Production Team that can be edited by using, Selection Omission. Think about commercials and how they use the BITE to encourage the audience to watch the next episode.

How you present this BITE is up to you. Some ideas could be;

- Storyboard (you can draw or source images of your representations)
- Script (make sure you include some images)
- Recorded Sound Bite
- Moving Image recorded by you

MARKING GUIDE & CHECKLIST

HIGH (A+ to B = 100% to 70%)

- You have demonstrated a strong understanding of all the concepts relating to representation for an audience.
- You understand to a strong level the idea of whom your audience is and what will keep them entertained.
- You have demonstrated a strong ability to omit and select appropriate messages and representations to ensure audience engagement is high.
- You have been creative in your delivery and presentation.
- Ideas are authentic and your own.
- You have worked consistently and your time management inside and outside of class time is outstanding.
- Your explanations are detailed and go into depth using the correct media language. (Refer to the booklet: Code & Conventions)

MEDIUM (C+ to D = 65% to 50%)

- You have been considered with your casting and relevant representations but at times some were unclear.
- You understand whom your audience is and were able to connect with them through your representations.
- You were creative in your approach, however your final presentation may have indicated a rushed approach, due to equipment and techniques applied.
- A good understanding of selection and omission was indicated.
- Time management was good, however at times you may have indicated that your plans did not go smoothly and/or you ran out of time.
- Some level of media language was applied to your task. (Refer to the booklet: Code & Conventions)

LOW (E+ to E 49% and below)

- Your final presentation was unorganised and your representations were not very clear.
- Your audience understanding was low and therefore lacked creative ideas to engage them.
- Your time management was low. You did not utilise your class time well or seek feedback along the way.
- Limited understanding of the concepts relating to representation and construction of.
- Limited ability to show understanding of selection and omission.
- Some level of media language was applied to your task. (Refer to the booklet: Code & Conventions)
- Your final presentation had components of the task missing indicating a lack of consideration for the entire task or poor time management.