

Musical Memories

Scenario:

Your music company, a collection of music specialists and history experts, is trying to land a contract with a public broadcasting company. The company is creating a series of documentaries on different eras in history. They plan on using a visual style made famous by Ken Burns in his documentary on the Civil War. They are looking for a music company that understands the importance of music in enhancing the meaning of the visuals as well as an understanding of historical music. The show's producer and director have asked your firm to make a presentation on a short documentary that you have created that uses the Ken Burns Effect. They suggest you choose a period of history and draw from the music of that era. Emphasize how the music is tied to that time period.

Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):

1. Describe the "Ken Burns Effect" and why it is effective.
2. What are some documentaries that demonstrate excellence in using music?
3. What kind of music would you choose for various purposes and why?
4. Provide background to the music you selected including its history and the composer.
5. How do lyrics provide information and reveal life at the time?
6. How does music make you empathize with people in the documentary?
7. Experiment with different music on the same scene and provide audience responses.
8. What role does music play in creating an emotional response?
9. How does music help an audience understand a message on a deeper level?
10. How does music help reveal time period, geographic location and culture?

Possible Sources

Newspapers, historians, music teachers, videos, CD's, encyclopedias, history textbooks
Facts on File, United Streaming, Associate Press Extensive Photo Archive and
Internet websites: Email TV producers. Do a survey of musicians. Email music professors with questions about the topic.

Internet links for additional resources are on page 2 of this scenario.

Bibliography

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

Grade 9-12 2008 Resources

Musical Memories

Ken Burns Effect - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Burns_Effect

The **Ken Burns Effect** is a popular name introduced by Apple Computer in 2003 for a feature in its iMovie 3 software. The feature enables a widely used technique of embedding still photographs in motion pictures, displayed with slow zooming and panning effects, and fading transitions between them. The name derives from extensive use of the technique by American [documentarian Ken Burns](#).

Songs in American History

history.sandiego.edu/GEN/snd/a-songlist.html

Songs in American history organized by time period.

Timely Tunes

www.voicesacrosstime.org/TimelyTunes/TimelyTune...

Musicologists hand-pick songs related to the season or current events.

For ease in planning, we archive them here!

The Aesthetics of Film Music

web.archive.org/web/19970516041845/http://citd...

What is it, exactly, that music contributes to a film? Discussion of how music can contribute to a film, e.g., creating a sense of time and place, a feeling of continuity, etc.

Sound Track: Mood Music

www.videomaker.com/article/7319

Though you may have never thought of it as such, music is a powerful force.

Informative article on the importance of music in movies.

Movie Making Manual/Music - Wikibooks, collection of open-content textbooks

en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Movie_Making_Manual-Music

Movie Making Manual/Music

Lots of information about adding music and sounds to movies.

YouTube - "Ken Burns Effect" demonstration

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNTiyRDhIRY

"Ken Burns Effect" demonstration

No sound, Civil War

YouTube - Ken Burns on the "Ken Burns Effect"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkZo7kqpd14

Ken Burns talks about the "Ken Burns Effect."

YouTube - Editing Changes Everything: Music's Effect on Mood

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpnaHUKdWfY

Entertaining piece on use of music

American Memory from the Library of Congress - Home Page

memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

Browse collections by topic; some have music related to periods of American history.