



Imagine a life of poverty – can you picture a way out?

Our advice for making a one minute film

Writing the story

1. Sixty seconds is not very long so don't try to do too much. We're not looking for heavily plotted sagas but rather your main ideas.
2. Give your story a beginning, middle and an end. For example, imagine a One-Minute Movie called Getting Back Into Work. The first 20 seconds might be images of young people queuing up to get their unemployment allowance. The next 20 seconds could be images of someone preparing for an interview with a jobs councillor. The last 20 seconds would be the successful candidate coming home from work with their first pay cheque.
3. Give some thought into how believable your film will look at the end and the materials you have available for the filming.
4. Unless you're lucky enough to have your own private movie set, you will have to film in the environments around you. And remember you need permission if you intend to film other people!
5. Finally, you don't even have to tell a story. A well constructed sequence of images can make for a great film.

Directing

1. It will be much easier to direct and edit your film if you make a series of sketches showing how you imagine the film (a storyboard) before trying to shoot.
2. Keeping your camera steady will improve your film no end so try to use a tripod or something to stand your camera on.
3. Don't zoom in and out too much or you might make the audience feel queasy!
4. Good lighting is vital so avoid shooting at night, in dark places or in direct sunlight.
5. Experiment with shooting the same scene from different angles and distances.

Sound

1. Try to avoid lots of speech as the film should be appealing to people across the EU and they may not speak your language.
2. Don't shoot anywhere with lots of natural noise if you plan to have actor speaking. Your microphone will pick-up this background noise.

3. Remember copyright! You can't use songs or music that don't belong to you (and it's against One-Minute Movies rules). There are several websites that have royalty free music that you can download and use.

4. Make your own soundtrack. Ask a friend to compose and record something for you or make a tune on your mobile phone, record it to your computer, then add it to your movie.

5. Add sound effects while editing your film. You can download free sounds on the internet.

Editing

1. Check your computer - it may already have video editing software installed. You can also download several trial versions from the Internet for free.

2. If you used a storyboard to make your film, give each scene you've downloaded onto your computer the same name as it had on the storyboard. This will make putting the film together much easier during editing.

3. Fast-cutting is a real skill so make the most of your great footage and leave each image on view for at least five seconds before cutting away.

4. Experiment when editing to see what type of cuts work best with your film. You can use straight cuts between scenes, dissolves, fade-outs, fade-ins... so many possibilities

5. Remember continuity when editing. If you put two scenes together during editing, make sure that nothing has changed e.g. Clothing, light, weather...