

Using Digital Video in the Classroom

Generic questions focusing on film

- ◆ How realistic was the reportage?
- ◆ What was the aim of the reportage?
- ◆ What insight do films give us into contemporary values and thoughts?
- ◆ How are/were films made?
- ◆ What did the audience want/enjoy?
- ◆ Is there more to archive film than moving wallpaper?
- ◆ Compare the film with your own knowledge of the historical period shown.
- ◆ How has the film added to your understanding of the period?
- ◆ Do you think there is anything important that has been left out?
- ◆ How does the film represent the main historical characters and groups?
- ◆ Why do you think they were represented in the way they were?
- ◆ Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of the film as a resource for historians.
- ◆ What do you think was the filmmaker's point of view?

Types of activities

Activity	Theoretical	Practical
Make a news report from the time	X	X
Make a guide to using film sources	X	X
Documentary from present day perspective (about the events, about the film)	X	X
Demonstrate that film / history is a construct – take liberties		X
Transposing styles of film making / reportage		X
Create a storyboard from clips (reverse storyboarding)	X	
Analyse relationship between film and other sources in other media	X	X
Would clip X be made today?	X	
Storyboard your own film	X	
Analyse a clip as you would any other kind of source	X	X
Video diaries	X	X
Add music, soundtracks etc		X
Create film about specific events / locations	X	X
Advise a company on the best clips to use for a film on ...	X	X
Sell an idea for a film to ...	X	X
Being a researcher	X	
Turn a talking head or other interpretation into a presentation	X	X

The possibilities of the technology

- ◆ Word processing:
 - hyperlinks to movies
 - tables to present storyboards
- ◆ PowerPoint
 - insert movie clip and add sound / commentary
 - bullet point analysis of a clip – clip as a text
 - presenting a pitch or historical viewpoint
- ◆ Video editing software
 - creating a programme
 - selecting and editing clips
 - adding sound, transitions, effects etc