

CHAPTER 3

Film Language and Elements of Style

TODAY'S AGENDA

THURSDAY 11-3-2011

- Review: Composition of A Frame
 - Journal Entry
- Camera Distances and Angles
 - Film Language: How do we describe camera distances and angles?
 - How do these tools contribute to a film?
 - Note Taking
 - Thinking Activity 3-3: Stills of TKM
 - Featurette on Camera Distances and Angles



JOURNAL 11-3-2011

REVIEW: COMPOSITION

- Directions:
- *We are going to view a frame from TKM. Answer the questions below about the COMPOSITION of the frame:*
- What is in the background?
- What is in the foreground?
- Is this frame “visually balanced”. Explain your answer.
- What is the point of emphasis in the this frame? Using information you’ve already answered in the previous questions, explain why.



WHAT IS THIS?



Depending on what you look at, you will see either a young woman facing away, or an old woman.



POINT OF EMPHASIS

- It depends on the “Point of Emphasis” you look at.
- Review: Point of Emphasis - the object which is most significant within a frame.



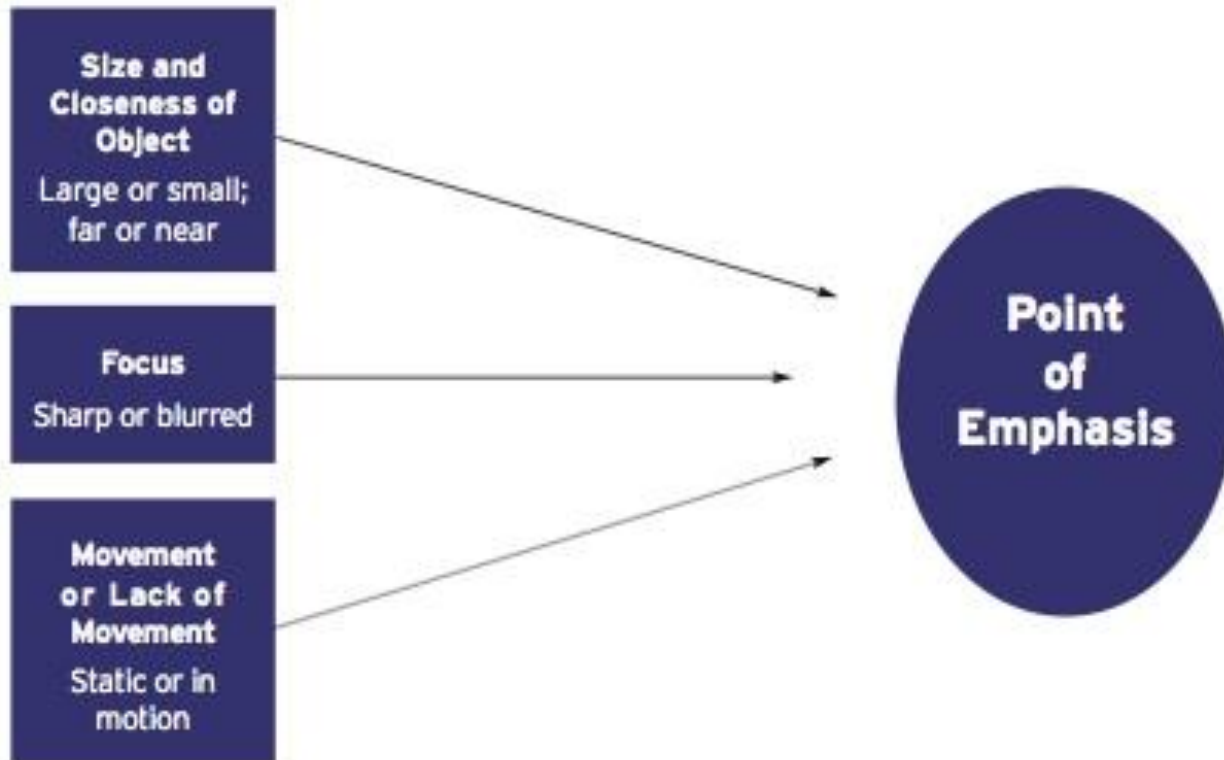
DIRECTIONS

- Text in **RED** for your notes
- Text in **BLACK** is extra info
- Copy graphic organizers into your notes.



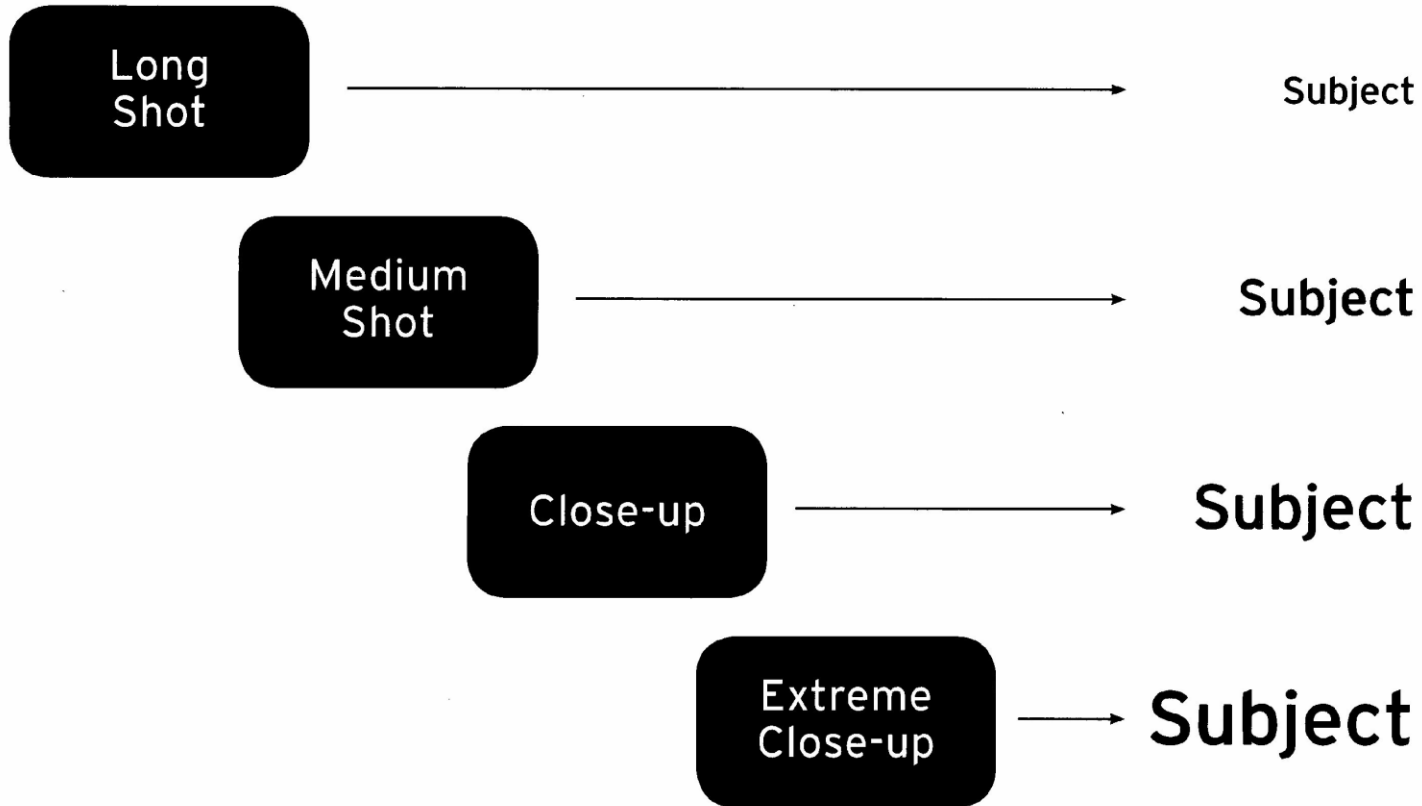
Point of Emphasis

There are multiple ways to draw attention to the most significant object in a frame.



Camera-to-Subject Distances

The position of the camera creates a visual effect. The effect will change depending on how close or how far away the camera is from the subject.



Why does the subject become larger and larger?



CAMERA DISTANCE NOTES

- Camera Distance determines the size and closeness of the subject (object, person being photographed).



CAMERA DISTANCE NOTES

○ Close-Up Shot

- allows the audience to focus on specific detail;
 - Example: Facial features of a character.
- The detail may fill the entire frame.
- Faces, hands, individual objects are often shown in a close-up.
- EXTREME Close Up – Detail fills the entire frame.
- Filmmakers use close-ups to provide necessary or meaningful information to the audience.



CAMERA DISTANCE NOTES

○ Medium Shot

- Reveals more of the subject.
- When the subject is a person, a medium shot usually reveals that person from the waist up.
- May include 1-3 people in it.

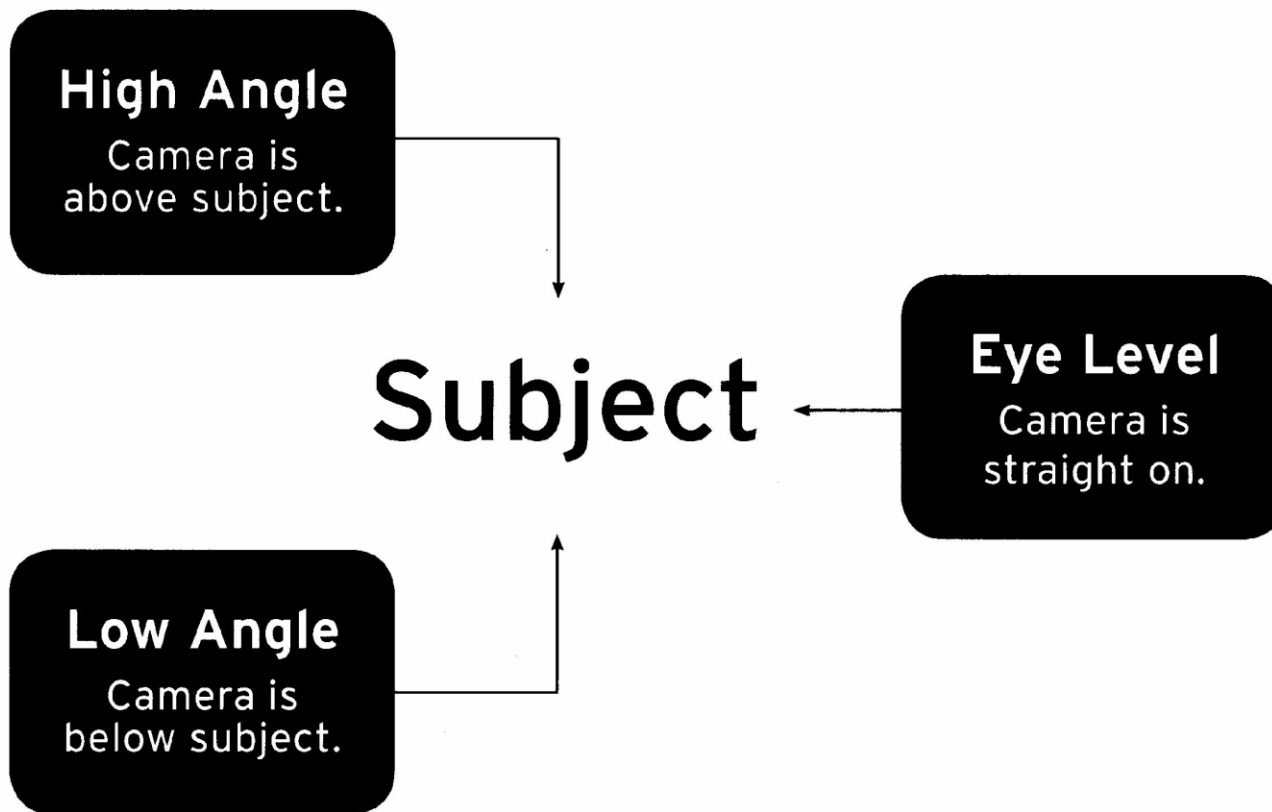
○ Long Shot

- Also called an Establishing Shot.
- Shows the subject in its surroundings and establishes setting.
- Subject appears small in relation to surroundings.



Camera-to-Subject Angles

The angle of the camera in relation to the subject also creates a visual effect. A high angle creates a different effect than a low angle or a straight-on shot.



CAMERA ANGLE NOTES

○ High-Angle Shot

- Above the subject, looking down.
- Can make subject appear small, weak or unimportant.

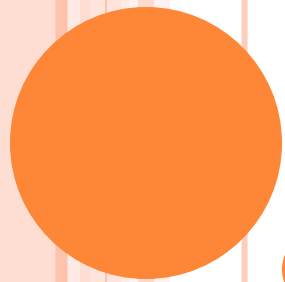
○ Low-Angle Shot

- Looks up at the subject.
- Can make subject large or impressive.

○ Eye-Level Shot

- Shot at the same level of subject.
- Commonly used shot because we view our world at eye level.





VISUAL- THINKING ACTIVITY 3-3

Shots and Significance



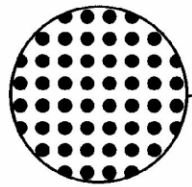
FEATURE CAMERA DISTANCES AND ANGLES

Shots and Significance

Multiple Cameras = One Shot

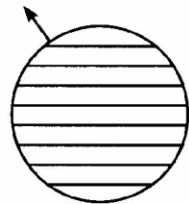
On the Set:

Shooting from different angles and distances

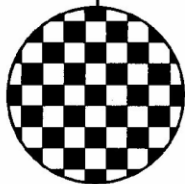


Camera 1: overhead shot;
to establish setting or to create
a visual effect that makes the
subject appear smaller

Subject



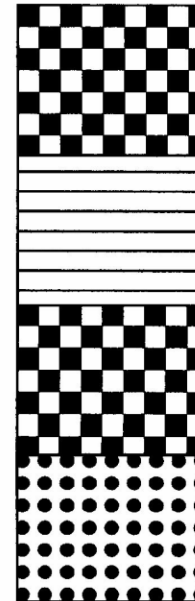
Camera 2: close-up;
to record the
subject's reaction



Camera 3: long shot;
to establish subject
in a setting

In the Studio:

Assembling the best shots



Camera 3:
long shot

Camera 2:
close-up shot

Camera 3:
long shot

Camera 1:
overhead shot

WRAPPING IT UP.....

○ Remember:

- A single camera captures a single shot.
- Shooting a film requires more than placing an actor on stage and recording sound such as in the theater.
- When filming a movie, a filmmaker must capture the same action from multiple angles and distances.
- The editor selects the best shots from one or more of the cameras to use in the film based on the quality of the performance and the best shots.

