

15. The role of editor

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The editor is responsible for assembling the audio and visual elements into the final film. Although their primary role is during the post-production phase, they will also play an important role in the pre-production and production phases. Editors should consider pacing and narrative rhythm, the creation of tension and mood, as well as editing styles (continuity or montage) and transitions (straight cuts, dissolves, fades in and fades out) in terms of narrative purpose. Some genre/films may require additional techniques such as keying, masking, double exposure, advanced titling, subtitles, colouring, animation and special effects.

The filmmaking tasks associated with the role of editor are outlined below.

Possible tasks for editor

Tasks for the role of editor in this assessment task might involve, but are not limited to, the following.

Pre-production

- Brainstorm with the team regarding ideas, genre, concepts and group intentions.
- Research the chosen genre and any influences for the production of the film, identifying conventions and developing style for the film.
- Make notations on storyboards to plan a rough edit or pre-visualization.
- Research and learn the editing software to be used.
- Go over the script and make note of any/all changes between time/place and create a plan for these transitions.
- Collaborate with the writer on approximate timing/pacing for each scene.
- Collaborate with the director about pacing, transitions, effects and style.
- Collaborate with the cinematographer regarding their shot list to ensure that there is enough coverage planned.
- Make a note of any special effects, new or tricky shots that may require additional work in post-production.
- Carry out test shoots for any difficult shots that require post-production (including, but not limited to, green screen, double exposure, masking, stop motion animation, match transitions).
- Collaborate with sound to determine soundtrack, sound effects and how it will match the general pace/mood of each sequence.

Production

- Collaborate with the director on any updates to the script while filming.
- Look over any daily production notes from the production team.
- Log, capture and upload footage as soon as it is available and create an organization system to store, label and back up all footage.
- Create a rough cut of the daily footage so that any mistakes can be caught early. This enables the team to see how the film is shaping up in terms of continuity and sound.
- Begin working on title or credit sequences.

Post-production

- Assemble and organize all footage.
- Create a rough edit.
- Collaborate with the director and writer about the rough edit, highlight any major issues/ changes and make a decision on any possible reshoots.
- Keep a daily log of work accomplished and questions for other members of the team.
- Collaborate with sound to obtain the soundtrack, sound effects and any other recorded sound.
- Collaborate with the cinematographer on any changes to colouring, cropping or image changes.
- Provide an opportunity for the team to view the film and provide feedback or suggestions.
- Attend a test screening and make a note of reactions or suggestions to the final cut.
- Consider how the work could have been improved (but avoid blaming equipment or other people involved).