

Exploring Film Genres for Telling Hero Stories: Animated Shorts

by Wendy Milete , The MY HERO Project
(Laguna Beach, CA)

Subject Area: Art/Music, English/Language Arts, Social Science, Technology/Media Literacy, Other subject

Grade Level: 5-8, 9-12, college

Overview/Purpose:

Bring historical, literary and fictional heroes to life using moving images, illustrations and sound to tell your animated hero story.

Objectives:

Students will learn how to produce an animated short film about their hero or their concept of heroism.

Resources/Materials:

Activities and Procedures:

In preparation for making your animated short film keep these simple guidelines in mind:

What fascinates you about your hero or your idea of heroism?

Choose the style of animation:

Stop Motion
Single Cell (drawing)
2D & 3D animation (advanced)
Flash animation
Clay animation
Other

Begin with writing the SCRIPT - Keep it simple.

Outline the simple story you want to tell that is feasible for you to accomplish with animation (usually needs to be SHORT!).

Structure the beginning, middle, and end.

Write, re-write, and re-write some more.

STRUCTURE:

In structuring an animation project, you need to keep it simple. Visit the Web sites below for details about animation shorts. Sound is a big part of animation, so write it into the script. Allow plenty of time to work on the sound design so your story can come to life.

FLASH ANIMATION:

Even if you don't have a camera, you can make your movie using the animation software, Flash. With Flash you can create elaborate and dynamic animations that fly all over the screen using photos, drawings and simple animations. Download a fully functional 30-day trial version of Flash from Macromedia and start making your movie.

PRODUCTION RESOURCES FOR STUDENT FILMMAKERS:

[How to Make a Short Film About Your Hero](#)
[Cinematographic Techniques for the Digital Filmmaker](#)
[Working With Images](#)
[Creating and Recording Sound](#)

OTHER LINKS:

<http://www.animationarena.com/flash-animation-artist>
<http://www.stopmotionanimation.com/>
<http://pharosproductions.com/aosma/smhome.html>
<http://www.animateclay.com/>
http://www.thinkquest.org/library/cat_show.html?cat_id=140
<http://library.thinkquest.org/11039/homeframes.html>
<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002472/>
<http://library.thinkquest.org/22316/home.html>
<http://www.cartoon-factory.com/types.html>

This is your short film so be creative and have fun!

Assessment: