FUNDAMENTALS OF EDITING

- Your edit should be a logical flow of ideas.
- It should be purposeful - moving your story along from beginning to end
- Shoot with the edit in mind - give yourself plenty of options for cutting later.

Good housekeeping will save you time (and heartache!) in the long run. Establish a system for storing your raw footage, your project files and your finished videos. (e.g. 01_Import, 02_Projects, 03_Export)

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Import clips & quickly watch through everything.

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Review your script and come up with a plan for your edit (you can write this down as a 'paper edit' if that helps you to conceptualise it

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Choose soundtrack music (if that's an important element of your video or scene - you can always add other tracks where needed, during the edit).

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Put on your editor hat! It's easy to be attached to footage you've shot yourself, but you need to be discerning as the editor. Much of it will inevitably be left on the 'cutting room floor'

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Mark up your clips with in and out points and bring them down into the timeline. Assemble the edit (put the shots in order)

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Save your work regularly

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Work on a rough cut (trim the clips so that they flow together, albeit roughly)

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Each scene should show something different (either the subject or view) - use varying shot sizes and camera positions

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Be careful cutting between two very similar shots of the same thing, it could cause a 'jump cut'. Inserts or cutaways can help here, as well as complementary cutting (varying the camera angle or shot size)

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As a general rule of thumb, graduating from long shot/wide shot to mid-shot to close-up is an effective scene structure (draws the audience into the scene).

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Editing on the action (instead of at the beginning or the end) will allow the audience to concentrate on the movement, not the edit

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Consider your audience and how their attention flows in the scene. A shot/idea should stay on screen long enough to help them understand, but not long enough that they get bored

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As you make adjustments, watch the whole sequence – does it make sense?

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Work on your sound mix - is the sound too high or low in different parts, are there any gaps or unwanted noises in the soundtrack?

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Add any visual effects

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Correct the exposure, contrast and colour

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Include titles and credits and any graphics.

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Adjust any images that require reframing.

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EXPORT a copy of the video