

3 TIPS IN VIDEO EDITING

After a successful field shoot, post-production begins and the editing room is where you put together your show. Although it might seem very overwhelming at times, here are a few tips that can help.

Tip 1: Don't make a cut without a reason

The main reason to cut is to improve the scene. Edits are used to advance the story or its characters. Some scenes require no editing at all if the shot composition and camera movement are strong enough to support the intent of the scene. Other scenes require constant cuts in order to advance the story.

Tip 2: The editor chooses what the audience watches

In live theater, each person in the audience is really watching his or her own personal movie. Each audience member can take in the entire stage or focus on a particular area. They get to choose if they want to concentrate on a specific actor the entire time or switch back and forth between different people. In film and television, the editor is choosing what the audience watches, basically manipulating the space in the scene. The editor can choose a wide shot so the audience can see the entire room and everyone in it, a medium shot so the focus is on a few people or a close-up on a single person or object. Because of this, you as the editor need to decide what is important for the audience to see and when to switch to something or someone else when the story calls for it.

Tip 3: A fresh perspective

After a long editing session, you are no longer focused or objective and it might be counterproductive to continue editing. So take a break. You will have a fresh perspective on your edit session when you come back. It's also a good idea to get other people to watch your rough cut too. You know your story and how it's supposed to play out, but someone who is watching it for the first time can give you invaluable advice on what is and isn't working with your story or show.