

# Editing Vocabulary And Archival Documentary Conventions Factsheet



## Editing

Editing is used to create meaning and to construct the message of a film. It is the process where footage is selected and combined to create meaning for the audience.

Shark Island Productions' Senior editor, Sally Fryer cut together existing media footage about Adam Goodes' final three years in the AFL to tell a powerful story in *The Final Quarter*. The director of the film, Ian Darling, led the production team in deciding what to omit and what to include from the many televised media segments and newspaper stories available. Music, still images and dictionary definitions have been added to heighten the message of *The Final Quarter*. Hours of football matches were cut down to minutes in order to have the most meaning in terms of telling Adam Goodes' story.

## Editing Vocabulary Relevant to THE FINAL QUARTER

**Cut:** A transition where one shot is instantly followed by another.

**Jump Cut:** An abrupt cut that creates a lack of continuity between shots by leaving out parts of the action.

**Dissolve:** When the end of one shot overlaps the start of the next one to create a gradual scene transition.

**Establishing Shot:** A shot that gives viewers an idea of where the scene is taking place. These usually involve a shot from a long distance, such as a bird's eye view.

**J Cuts:** An editing technique that allows the audience to first hear audio from a shot, and then see it.

**Fade:** A visual effect used to indicate a change in place and time. This involves a gradual brightening as a shot opens or a gradual darkening as the shot goes black or to another color. Sound also fades in and out to convey the change.

**Split screen:** Two different shots appear side by side in a frame.

**Wipe:** An edited special effect where an image/shot seems to be "pushed" or "wiped" to one side of the screen to make way for the next shot.

**Title:** Written words on the screen.

**Graphics:** Graphics is another word for pictures and they help to illustrate meaning for the audience. In The Final Quarter newspaper cuttings appear to have been 'torn' from the newspapers.

**Sound effects:** This is sound added to create an effect for the audience. In The Final Quarter there are sound effects of thunder, kicking a ball and amplified sounds of a football crowd to enhance meaning for the audience at various points in the documentary.

**Special effects:** Visual effects added to the film to enhance meaning/mood/feeling for the audience.

**Voice over:** A voice that is on the soundtrack whilst the audience see something other than the person creating the voice. The Final Quarter uses voiceovers from different people in the interviews and speeches it has used. The majority of voiceover (sometimes used as narration) is from Stan Grant.

**Interviews:** Where people are asked questions about an event and they respond. There are three types of interviews within The Final Quarter: studio interviews, media on the scene, newspaper reports quoting what people said.

**Mise en scene:** Everything within a shot frame.

**Lighting:** There is a mixture of studio lighting and natural lighting (e.g. outdoors at a football ground and studio lighting in the scenes from the various television talk shows).

**Narrator:** Where a voice describes the action happening on the screen and can also add context or emotion to what is seen. In The Final Quarter this is most evident in the match commentary.

**Cutaway:** The interruption of a continuously filmed action with a shot that's peripherally related to the principal action.

**B-roll:** In film and television production, B-roll is supplemental or alternative footage intercut with the main shot. The B-roll also serves to break up the monotony of the basic interview.

**Slow motion:** When a scene in a film is slower than what is considered normal motion.

**Credit sequence:** This occurs at the beginning or the end of a film and highlights the production personnel who made the film.

**Source:** <https://www.nyfa.edu/student-resources/a-beginners-guide-to-film-editing-vocabulary/>

## Types of Documentaries

**Expository:** Lecturing, overtly didactic, e.g. with a presenter or an explanatory voice-over.  
(Examples: Spellbound, Why We Fight)

**Observational:** Like a 'fly on the wall' the camera, microphone and film crew seem not to be disturbing the scene or even to be noticed by the participants.  
(Examples: Armadillo, 9/11, Don't Look Back)

**Participatory/Interactive:** The film crew takes part in the action or chain of events.  
(Examples: Bowling for Columbine, Exit Through the Gift Shop)

**Reflexive:** The film exposes and discusses its own role as a film (e.g. the ethics or conditions of filmmaking) alongside the treatment of the case or subject.  
(Examples: Man With a Movie Camera, Bontoc Eulogy)

**Performative:** The film crew creates many of the events and situations to be filmed by their own intervention or through events carried out for the sake of the film.  
(Examples: Super Size Me, Kurt & Courtney)

**Poetic:** The film focuses predominantly on the aesthetic aspects, qualities of the form and appealing to the senses.  
(Examples: Night and Fog, Rain, Sans Soleil, I Am Belfast)

**Source:** Juel, H. (2006). Defining Documentary Film. Retrieved June 13, 2015, from P.O.V., [http://pov.imv.au.dk/Issue\\_22/section\\_1/artc1A.html#fn3](http://pov.imv.au.dk/Issue_22/section_1/artc1A.html#fn3)