

A Practical guide to writing Medfilm records

About the Medfilm project :

The Medfilm educational platform is a health history database. It brings together utilitarian films produced as part of health campaigns or the training of health professionals, or more broadly for teaching in schools. Depending on the audience to whom they are addressed, they consist in explaining prevention or care methods, or in presenting the institutions, actors or equipment of the medical sector. Each film is associated with a presentation and analysis leaflet.

The writing of records :

As part of your teaching, you are asked to write a form associated with a document that has not yet been included in the database. This guide will explain the purposes of this writing, provide you with examples of scene analysis and give you tools to support your audiovisual content analysis.

As part of the enrichment of the platform's content, your work will allow the analysis of new audiovisual documents. It is important to keep in mind that your sheets will serve as work supports for future researchers and as a basis for future teaching. Therefore, it is recommended to focus your thinking on content analysis. It is important to provide contextual information to trace the frame and the structure of the document under study, which can be provided using a minimalist style (see as an example the first part of the description of the first example on cannabis). However, the objective is to focus on key scenes during which you will analyze the cinematographic devices set up. What messages do they convey, what was the director's intention?

Details on the categories :

The architecture of Medfilm's standard notice makes it possible to describe the contents and indicate the purposes of the film with which it is associated.

- Section "Main Generic"

Put the information indicated on the start and end credits as they are displayed on the screen

- Section " context ":

According to the available sources, it is necessary to specify the historical context: from the social and economic point of view, from the point of view of health history, from the point of view of the history of audiovisual production.

Example: for an audiovisual document dealing with contraception in France in the 1980s, care should be taken to specify the historical dates of the development of contraception. These include the creation of family planning in 1960, the legalization of contraception through the Neuwirth Act in 1967 and the Veil Act in 1975.

- Section " how does the film direct the viewer's gaze? » :

It is necessary to show how the choices of realization orientate the viewer's gaze. These choices, as much as the commentary or the cards, are likely to express the intentions of the production: it is a formal strategy that aims to persuade or sensitize the viewer through the use of cinematographic language. This work on the media can refer to gender-specific audiovisual codes (form of the clip, or drama, or journalistic reporting...)

Example: "the formal style draws on the codes of the clip: short shot, flash at the end of the shot, shock images, puzzle effect, synthetic and rhythmic music. In this way, the realization seeks to suit the codes of the young public".

- section "summary":

Film content and structuring (max. three lines). The idea here is to give a concise overview, like an abstract in the case of an article. You will be asked to develop your analysis further in the "free description" section.

-Section « Free details »

This analysis describes the film in its continuity. Its structured according to the succession of sequences. A sequence is composed by a succession of shots that constitute a unit of narrative . Yves Lavandier defines the sequence as «a group of scenes gathers by the same sub-objective». Each sequence is a part to which a title must be associated. At every end part you have to stipulate the corresponding time-code as followed : «(00 :00)».

The writing should combine description and analysis where appropriate. A cinematic apparatus or a comment would be a call for a interpretative comment. Omissions of representation may also be highlighted. It is crucial to insist on the key-scene of the movie, not always the longest. They could be representative of the film's gait or could be insert in an aesthetic approach that involve other films dealing with similar subjects (to emerge archetype).

For the drafting : just as it is important to make a brief summary and catchphrase when moving from one large part to another in an essay, the director will give particular importance to the opening and closing sequence shots.. Them deserves often an precise analysis because they are meaningful, sometimes they even become almost metaphorical.

It is not necessary to master the cinematic language to achieve a description. However, you should pay attention to the description of shots (colors, sound, characters' attitude) and not to be satisfied to tell the film.

Examples of scene's analysis :

Some tools to help you in your cinematic description :

In general, you should focus your attention on three elements, it is recommended to analyze in the following order:

-The elements of the scene: who are the actors, what is the set, what are the visible elements?

-The medium: what are the cinematographic techniques used, how do they highlight elements of the composition of the scene?

-The message: what is the message the director wants to convey? How do all these elements of staging contribute to focusing the viewer's attention on a specific point?

Example from the "Cannabis" sheet, from the "Addiction" series available on Medfilm

-Analysis in 2 steps, description of the scene with the cinematographic elements and analytical explanation.

1) In a wide shot, slightly immersed, a coffee table loaded with four ashtrays, a candle holder, a pack of cigarettes and a pack of cigarette leaves. Around the table, there are three people who are not entirely distinguishable: on one side, the upper part of the frame, two people sitting on a sofa, and on the other, a person whose thigh is only distinguishable on the right frame edge.

2) Individuals are anonymized, the centrality of cannabis is noted in the scene. This plan makes it possible to present the sociability organized around cannabis consumption.



Example from the "Eating habits and coronary heart disease" sheet, available on Medfilm

- Study of the influence of farmers' diets on their platelet production. A "laboratory caravan" travels to carry out the analyses.

1) Close-ups on the blood recovery process, chest shot on the scientist inserting the blood into the coagulometer.

2) The director shows us science in action, the science that allows us to provide answers about the appearance of these diseases. This process is amplified by the naturalistic aspect conferred by the documentary image register. The caravan as a place of science, a laboratory of progress, in opposition to the rustic plans that characterized the interior of farmers' houses. Science would then be a vehicle for the progress it would bring to farmers in touch with rural life. Science brings progress in situ, in direct contact with the rural way of life. Positivist vision.



Example from the "Injection" sheet, from the « Addiction » series available on Medfilm

-Immersion in a needle exchange program that helps the most deinserted users.

1) View of the clinic from below. Wide shot, white building on blue sky with blue shutters. Building gives an impression of comfort. Fixed shot of about ten seconds.

2) The building appears as a metaphor for the help provided by the medical staff, the staff of this clinic to the injectors. Refers a vision of peaceful and universalist medicine, transcends differences at the level of users, their conditions to provide solutions to the entire population, even the most fragile, distant and rejected by



The types of plans and their meanings

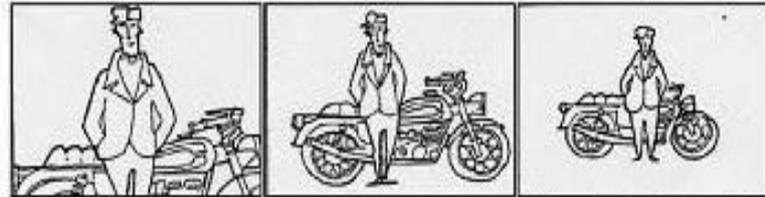
<p>Enters a detail. Provocation of a shock effect, widely used for dramatism.</p>	<p>Focus attention on a face and expression. Allows a detailed knowledge of feelings or psychological state.</p>	<p>Character framed from head to chest. This plan highlights feelings.</p>
<p>Named after it because it allowed you to see the packages in the Westerns. Emphasizes the importance of the object.</p>	<p>Plan corresponds to the natural, "ordinary" vision, reveals the action of the characters.</p>	<p>Plan that allows the character's action to be inserted into his environment.</p>
<p>Allows to distinguish the main elements of a scene, establishes a relationship between the subject and his environment. If the plan is even broader, we will speak of a general plan.</p>	<p>The camera is above the scene. The objective "plunges" into the subject. This angle crushes the subject, sinks him into his environment. Impression of inferiority.</p>	<p>The camera is below the subject. A character extracted from his environment, grown by the image, he is magnified. Accentuated counter-diving can induce a feeling of anxiety, especially if drop shadows appear.</p>



Très gros plan

Gros plan

Plan rapproché, poitrine



Plan américain

Plan moyen

Plan de demi-ensemble



Plan d'ensemble

Plongée

Contre plongée

Example of recurrent diagrams in the construction of medical documents

Identifying these recurring patterns means being able to go further in describing the message transmitted by the director:

-The alternation of testimonies between a former user/patient and a doctor/health professional. By making a round trip between user knowledge and expert knowledge, the director wants to raise awareness through two distinct and complementary approaches - narrative from experience and scientific analysis - of the many abuses that the use of a product is likely to cause. The parallel use of knowledge helps to reinforce the message.

-The superposition of qualitative testimonies and quantitative data often represented in the form of animation. Reinforcement of the message through the use of knowledge from experience and epidemiological analysis, for example.