

THE DOOR SCENE – STEP ONE

Introduction to Visual Storytelling

Challenge:

Form production teams of no more than five people. (Three is ideal.) Using a video camera, interpret and shoot the following scripted scenario:

A person is about to open a door. The person hears a sound and becomes mildly concerned. The person finds the door locked and searches for his or her keys. The person hears the sound again and becomes visibly apprehensive. As the filmmaker, your goal is to build tension and growing panic, using any visual element or device that you can think of.

The film closes with the person finally opening the door and getting to the other side safely. Here, you want to communicate to the audience the character's feeling of relief and safety.

Parameters/Limitations:

- Neither the character nor the audience ever sees the source of the sound.
- The film can have only one actor.
- The film may not exceed 90 seconds.
- The entire film must take place within five feet of either side of the door.
- You must assemble the shots “in camera,” as you go along, WITHOUT using editing equipment.

Exhibit:

Each production team screens its finished film for the entire class for feedback.

- Did the film communicate the script?
- Did it communicate the rising tension and relief?
- What could you shoot differently?
- What would make your film more understandable?
- What would give your film more emotional impact?