

# Video Reportage for Secondary Education Teachers

**GUIDE 2023**



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# INTRODUCTION



Video reportage is journalistic media form that presents news stories or current events through a visual medium. It combines traditional reporting techniques with the use of video footage to provide a more engaging and comprehensive coverage of a particular event or issue. It also often adds a dynamic dimension to news stories by allowing viewers to witness and experience the story firsthand. As for education, video reportage assignments introduce students to all the basic skills and techniques of good video journalism and documentary storytelling apart from helping them develop the competences they need to thrive in today's world in a highly engaging way.



Reportage video production was, therefore, one of the main activities of the Erasmus+ Project “Reporters of cultural heritage without borders”, a partnership among four European countries, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain, having this guide been created to help educators and students that would like to give it a try.



**ADVANTAGES OF  
VIDEO REPORTAGE  
OVER OTHER TYPES  
OF REPORTAGE**



- **Visual appeal** – It leverages audiovisual elements, being therefore more engaging and impactful than text or images alone.
- **Emotional engagement** – Videos have the power to evoke emotions more effectively than text or images, allowing viewers to better relate to the subject matter being covered.
- **Convenience, accessibility and broad audience reach**– In today's digital age, video content can be easily shared and accessed on social media, various platforms, and devices, increasing its reach and potential impact.



- **Complexity** – Stories can be told in a more expressive and comprehensive manner as interviews, visuals, narratives, and other audiovisual techniques can be incorporated, making it easier for viewers to follow and understand complex issues.
- **Authenticity** – Video reportage allows viewers to see and hear first-hand accounts, body language and expressions, which contributes to a stronger sense of authenticity and immediacy.
- **Real-time updates** - Video reportage can provide more up-to-date coverage of events unfolding in real time.
- **Language barriers** – Visual elements, gestures, and emotions can be understood by viewers who may not understand the spoken/written language; therefore, language barriers are more effectively transcended, allowing for broader international reach and impact.



**WHY VIDEO  
REPORTAGE AS A  
SCHOOL  
ASSIGNMENT**

- **Enhanced understanding** - Students must comprehensively research a topic and present it in an engaging and informative way, which deepens their understanding of the subject matter.
- **Communication skills** – Video reportage requires students to present information effectively, articulate their thoughts clearly, script narratives and engage their audience, enhancing their verbal and visual communication skills.
- **Creativity** – Students can explore their creativity by choosing different visual elements, storytelling techniques, and presentation styles to enhance the impact of their reportage.





- **Critical thinking and analytical skills** – Students must assess information sources, select information, synthesize ideas and find unique ways to present their findings.
- **Collaboration and teamwork** - Creating a video reportage often involves teamwork, fostering communication, collaboration, cooperation, and negotiation skills among students.
- **Digital literacy** – Creating a video reportage exposes students to different technological tools such as cameras, editing software, and audio equipment and teaches them how to use them effectively.



- **Engagement and motivation** – Video reportage assignments are a more dynamic and exciting way of learning than traditional assignments, increasing students' engagement in the learning process.
- **Real-world application** – Students are offered the opportunity to explore real-world media production scenarios like journalistic reporting, documentary filmmaking, multimedia production or broadcasting experience.
- **Diverse learning styles** – Video reportage assignments accommodate different learning styles.





- **Empowerment** – Video reportage production empowers students to express their thoughts, opinions, and perspectives on various subjects. Their confidence and sense of accomplishment are also boosted as they see their work come to life through the visual medium.



# **BASIC LIST OF EQUIPMENT**



- Camera or smartphone
- Tripod
- External microphone
- Headphones



- Basic lightning (natural light or inexpensive LED lights)
- Video editing software

**GENERAL STEPS  
INVOLVED IN  
VIDEO REPORTAGE  
PRODUCTION**



- Select a newsworthy topic/subject that can be covered effectively in a video format.
- Determine the purpose of your reportage (informing, educating, or advocating) and identify your target audience (classmates, teachers, or a wider audience).
- Do a thorough research on the topic using reliable sources. Gather facts, statistics, and any necessary background information.







- Organize your findings into a clear structure and develop an outline of the key points you want to include in your reportage. Determine what angle or perspective you want to take ensuring it's objective and balanced.
- Write a script that guides your narration and interviews and any other elements that will be included in the video reportage.
- Think about the visuals you want to capture to support your story. Decide on locations, shots, and interviewees and any additional materials e.g., photographs or graphs.

- Sketch a visual storyboard that outlines each scene and shot you plan to include in your reportage. It helps you visualize the flow and arrangement of content.
- Gather the necessary equipment. Test it before shooting to avoid technical difficulties.
- Start filming following the storyboard. Capture your interviews, b-roll footage, voiceovers, and any other necessary audio. Ensure proper use of camera angles, lighting, and audio equipment to capture high-quality visuals and sound.





- Select the most relevant and engaging footage. Use video editing software to trim, cut and adjust clips, ensuring a logical flow. Add background music and include captions or graphics if necessary. Ensure that music and sound effects don't overpower the narration or dialogue.
- Review your edited video with critical eyes. Seek feedback from others and make any necessary adjustments based on their input.
- Export the final video in a suitable format and resolution.
- Publish your video reportage on appropriate platforms.





Remember to adhere to copyright laws by crediting sources or getting necessary permissions if using copyrighted material as well as to secure necessary permissions, permits, or access to shoot in specific locations or interview individuals.





**COMMON TYPES  
OF VIDEO  
REPORTAGE  
STUDENTS CAN  
CREATE**



- **News reportage** – It focus on covering current events, local news, or global issues, presenting facts, interviews, and analysis.
- **Documentary reportage** – It is a longer-form video piece that investigates, explores, or educates about a specific topic and often includes historical context and expert analysis.
- **Investigative Reportage** – It involves digging deep into a particular issue or topic to uncover hidden truths or facts, expose wrongdoing, or bring attention to important matters.



- **Human interest story** – It conveys stories focused on individuals or groups with compelling experiences or unique perspectives.
- **Feature story** – It provides in-depth and insightful coverage of a particular subject, giving viewers a comprehensive understanding of the topic.
- **Travel or cultural reportage** – It showcases different locations, cultures, traditions, and experiences.
- **Sports reportage** – It focuses on covering local or international sports events, athletes' stories, interviews with athletes and analysis of games or matches.







- **Opinion or editorial reportage:** It involves presenting a subjective viewpoint or commentary on a specific issue or topic.
- **Health and wellness reportage** – It focuses on creating content related to physical and mental health to help viewers make healthier choices.
- **Environmental reportage** – It conveys content aimed at raising awareness about environmental challenges and their impact on society.
- **Technology and science reportage** – It deals with content related to advancements in technology, breakthroughs in science and their impacts on society.



- **Educational or how-to reportage** – It involves the creation of instructional videos to share knowledge or skills.



# **FINAL REMARKS**



Video reportage plays a crucial role in modern journalism by providing a dynamic and engaging platform for storytelling. Through this guide we have explored the advantages of video reportage production as well as the key elements that can contribute to creating impactful news reports. There are many stories waiting to be told, so why not choosing one and bringing it to life for viewers through the lens of video reportage? You will definitely enjoy the experience.



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