

SEQUENCE

The editor and director must have shared understanding of the editing goals. (The director may also be the editor). The process can differ from film to film but all edits will follow similar basic patterns. The sequences that the editor creates are the basic storytelling tools for documentary filmmaking.

THE BEST FOOTAGE

Documentary directors usually shoot far more footage than is included in the final film. Footage will vary in quality depending on the circumstances in which it was shot but it will be selected based on the sequences needed to tell the story.

MAKING SEQUENCES

The next step is the creation of sequences for the film. Editors will sometimes find that footage needed to tell the story is missing. Often the skill of the editor is seen in the way that they can create meaningful sequences with limited footage.

TELLING THE STORY

The editor orders the sequences in the best way to tell the story. At this stage some sequences will be discarded. Often the director and editor will struggle with the structure or order of sequences for some time before the story emerges.