

TRANSITIONS

If the viewer is too aware of the transitions being used then the chances are they are not serving the story. There are some basic rules for using transitions.

HANDLE WITH CARE

A transition shouldn't be inserted just because it can be. Use transitions when there is a drastic change of scene and even then, use only if they are necessary to smooth the flow.

THE RIGHT TRANSITION

The transition chosen should correspond to the nature of the change that takes place between scenes. With modest scene changes, a subtle transition like a dissolve is best. For major changes, like jumping ahead in time, a more obvious transition, such as a wipe or fade-to-black works well.

TELLING THE STORY

If transitions are used they should match the story and genre of the documentary. A fast paced observational documentary might use simple jump cuts while a slower more contemplative documentary might use long dissolves.