

# NARRATION

It is important that the filmmaker decides on the voice and style of narration before the writing process begins. Is it to be serious and authoritative or friendly and personable. There are no hard and fast rules as it all depends on the subject matter and style of film.

## FINDING THE RIGHT NARRATOR

The filmmaker needs to decide whether the narrator will appear on camera (as a presenter) or simply be a voice on the soundtrack. A good presenter can help personalise the viewing experience by talking directly to the viewing audience and often appears in documentary for television. A narration voice on the soundtrack can be unobtrusive simply connecting the action and characters or obtrusive telling the audience what to think.

## SIMPLE, POWERFUL SENTENCES

Narration appears to work well when the sentences are simple and contain some action. It is not a good idea to try to get across too many ideas in the one sentence or statement.

## DIRECTING ATTENTION

Narration is an excellent way to draw the viewer's attention to certain aspects of a scene. Although there might be a lot going on. The narration can point out what is significant to the story.

## ATMOSPHERE

Narration can enhance the mood of the documentary by bringing scenes to life and helping viewers to become involved in the emotional experience of the film.

## SUMMARISING

Narration can be used to summarise a sequence or series of sequences, providing context and information not always apparent in the scene. This can help to make the narrative journey of the story more satisfying for the viewer.