**Cinematic Techniques**

**Shots and Framing**

**Shot:** A shot is a single piece of film uninterrupted by cuts.

**Establishing Shot:**Often a long shot or a series of shots that sets the scene, this technique is used to **establish setting and to show transitions between locations.**

**Long Shot (LS):**A shot from some distance. If the shot is of a person, the full body is shown. A long shot **may show the isolation or vulnerability of a character.**

**Medium Shot (MS):** The most common shot. The camera seems to be a medium distance from the object being filmed. A medium shot **shows a person from the waist up. The effect is to ground the story.**

**Close-up Shot (CS):**The image being shot takes up at least 80 percent of the frame. **It is used to show importance or great emotion.**

**Extreme Close-up:**The image being shot is part of a whole, such as an eye or a hand. **It is used to show importance, awkwardness, or emotion**

**Two Shot:**A scene between two people shot exclusively from an angle that includes both characters more or less equally; it is **used in scenes where interaction between the two characters is important.**

**Camera Angles**

**Eye Level:** A shot taken from a normal height—that is, at the character’s eye level. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the shots seen are eye level because it is the most natural angle. **It draws the audience into the perspective of the characters.**

**High Angle:**The camera is above the subject. This angle usually has **the effect of making the subject look smaller than normal, giving the character the appearance of being weak, powerless, and/or trapped.**

**Low Angle:** The camera films the subject from below. This angle usually has **the effect of making the subject look larger than normal, and thus strong, powerful, and/or threatening.**

**Camera Movements**

**Pan:** A stationary camera moves from side to side on a horizontal axis. **It is used to encompass an entire scene or setting.**

**Tilt:** A stationary camera moves up or down along a vertical axis. **It is used to show the height or depth of a scene, object, or setting which could make something seem larger, smaller, or more breathe taking in some way.**

**Zoom:** A stationary camera in which the lens moves to make an object seem to move closer to or further away from the camera. **With this technique, moving into a character is often a personal or revealing movement, while moving away distances or separates the audience from the character.**

**Dolly/Tracking:**The camera is on a track that **allows it to move with the action**. The term also refers to any camera mounted on a car, truck, or helicopter.

**Boom/Crane & Drones:** The camera is on a crane or flying on a drone over the action. This position is used to create overhead shots.

**Lighting**

**High Key:**The scene is flooded with light, creating a bright and open-looking scene.

**Low Key:**The scene is flooded with shadows and darkness, creating suspense or suspicion.

**Bottom or Side Lighting:**Direct lighting comes from below or the side, **which often makes the subject appear dangerous or evil.**

**Front or Back Lighting:**Soft lighting on an actor’s face or from behind **gives the appearance of innocence or goodness—a halo effect.**

**Editing Techniques**

**Cut:** The most common editing technique; two pieces of film are spliced **together to “cut” to another image.**

**Fade:**A gradual change in the light to move from one scene to another. A fade can begin in darkness and gradually assume full brightness (fade in) or the image may gradually get darker (fade out**). A fade often implies that time has passed, or it may signify the end of a scene.**

**Dissolve:**A type of fade in which one image is slowly replaced by another. **It can create a connection between images**.

**Wipe:** A new image wipes off the previous image. A wipe is more fluid than a cut and quicker than a dissolve.

**Flashback:**A cut or dissolve to an action that happened in the past.

**Shot-Reverse Shot:**A shot of one subject, then another, and then back to the first. **This technique is often used for conversation or reaction shots.**

**Cross Cutting:**A cut into action that is happening simultaneously. This technique is also called parallel editing. **It can create tension or suspense and can form a connection between scenes.**

**Eye-Line Match:**A cut from an object to a person. **This technique shows what a person seems to be looking at and can help reveal a character’s thoughts.**

**Sound**

**Diegetic:**This type of sound could logically be heard by the characters in the film.

**Non-diegetic:**This type of sound cannot be heard by the characters. It is designed for audience reaction only. An example might be ominous music to foreshadow an event.