



**Advanced & Digital Media Virtual Learning**

# **HS/Advanced & Digital Media**

**May 6, 2020**



Lesson: [Using Natural Sound (5/6/20)]

**Objective/Learning Target:**

**Recognize natural sound usage in broadcast stories.**

**Understand how to use natural sound to improve storytelling. Create natural sound pops in their stories.**

## Bell Ringer

1. When we say a story makes good use of “natural sound” what does that mean to you?





# Telling the story with natural sound

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# Using natural sound

Make your story part of reality



## Why it's important

- Natural sound is what grounds broadcast stories. It makes them exist in reality.
- If you watch video without sound it feels unnatural because that's not how we experience reality. Sound is very important.



## Styles

- A “nat pop” is when the natural sound quickly rises and descends.
- Most natural sound exists underneath the audio track and just hints that the video exists in the real world.



# 2

## Basic Usage

Making natural sound exist



## Tuning the sound

- Most natural sound you want to just exist in the background.
- Don't overpower the voice track.
- Make it just loud enough to be present but not loud enough to distract.

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# Nat pops

Use them for a reason



## Nat sound pops

- This is a natural sound technique that will improve your visual storytelling by leaps and bounds. You want to find a natural place within your writing to allow the natural sound to become the focus of the story before resuming the focus on the words.



## Examples of a nat pop

- Natural sound pops exist all over the sports broadcasting world. Anytime you hear the story pause for the roar of the crowd or the crack of the bat or the pop of the pads. That's the story taking a break to let the natural sound pop.

# 4

## Shooting for natural sound

Being aware of your environment



## Finding good nats

- Make sure you always shoot with your recording levels high enough to get natural sound.
- The best natural sound pops come from repetitive quick bursts of sound like crowds erupting or something like a hammer hitting a nail repeatedly at a construction site.



## Checking your levels

- Making sure the audio levels are good on your camera is highly important and it's not just for interviews.
- Over modulated natural sound can ruin a piece of video just like video where the levels were so low that no sound was recorded.



# 5

## **Editing with natural sound**

Making your environment help tell  
the story



## The Basics

- You want to put your natural sound on audio channel two in your editor.
- Try to always keep your voice track and natural sound audio on different channels to make the editing flow more naturally.



## Adjusting the levels

- No matter what editing software you use there will be two ways to adjust the natural sound. There will be a way to adjust the entire clip all at the same level (audio gain in premiere). And there's a way to adjust bits and pieces manually (using the pen tool in prem.)



## When to use

- The overall clip adjustment works best when you want the natural sound at the same level all the way through the clip.
- Manual adjustments are reserved for things like a nat pop where you want the audio to \*pop\* for a quick second.



## Editing a nat pop

- Start raising the audio just a few frames before you want it to start. Then it should be at its peak only a few more frames later and then back down in a second. Natural sound pops are QUICK anything over a second or two at the most is way too long.

# 6

## Telling stories w/ natural sound

How sound provides context



## Weaving the narrative

- The true experts build their broadcast stories with natural sound written into the fabric of the story.
- Some natural sound is there to provide environment (running water, birds chirping, etc.) and great writing will reference that audio.



## Using specific nats

- Sometimes the natural sound is actual words spoken in the background. If something interesting is being said it's perfectly fine to write to the audio almost like it's a sound bite even if you didn't technically interview the person speaking.





## Assignment

- For this assignment do a quick story on your family during lockdown. Shoot yourself and them doing various things around the house. Record an interview with one of them. Then put together a minute long story. Within this story include at least THREE natural sound pops.