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Tips for Better Editing

1. Focus on Your Main Idea

Audio and visual effects, which typically come with editing software, can make your video more interesting to watch and professional looking. However, keep in mind that a few effects go a long way. Try not to let them sidetrack you or distract your audience from your main idea.

2. Stay Organized

Creating a list of all of your shots, organized by scene, will help you stay organized and will make the editing process much quicker and more efficient.

3. Establish Your Scene and Characters

If your audience doesn't know who they're watching or listening to, or where it's all taking place, they'll be confused and might lose interest in what your video has to say.

4. Keep It Varied

Assemble, or "cut together," different types of shots for a more exciting video. For instance, try going from wide shots to close-ups, or the reverse. You can also vary the pace of your video, depending on the mood you want to create. Cutting from one shot to another fairly often (every four seconds or so) will create a fast, exciting pace. Cutting less often will yield a slower, more thoughtful feel.

5. Consider Captions and Voice-overs

If you need to cover a lot of information very quickly, and can't do it with the shots or audio you have, try using a caption or voiceover. These methods can be particularly helpful if you need to jump between places or times.

6. Level the Volume from One Scene to the Next

If the audio of some scenes is louder than in other scenes, adjust the audio levels until the volume is more or less the same.

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