

CREATIVE NON- FICTION

Center High School

Common terms and abbreviations

B-Roll	Video that enhances or tells the story. It was originally used to cover a jump cut in editing. It is now more commonly used to add dimension to a story. Example: If a person is talking about a new school, the B-roll will include video of the new school.
BEV	Bird's Eye View
BG	Background
CU	Close up
ENG	Electronic news gathering. Refers to the process of reporting events and activities that occur outside of the television studio.
EST	Establishing Shot
EXT	Exterior scene
FG	Foreground
FS	Follow shot (pan)
INT	Interior scene
J-cut	The audio portion of a video clip (Clip B) plays under another video clip (Clip A). After a few moments, the video portion of Clip A transitions to the video portion of Clip B and the audio of Clip B comes up full while the audio portion of Clip A fades away. This is a great way to let your audience know someone is about to say something or a transition is coming.
L-cut	has the audio of one clip tail off under the next video clip. This is an effective way to ease viewers out of a sound bite or narration track and into the cutaway. J-cuts and L-cuts, ease the transition from one clip to another.
LS	Long shot
MCU	Medium close up
NAT	Nat Sound, Natural Sound. The microphone picks up the sound in the room, or the background noise. Example: If you have a picture of a train, you include the sound of the train - the natural sound.
OTS	Over the shoulder shot
SFX	Sound effects
SOT	Sound on tape. Portions of the video that will use the natural sound from the time of recording, as opposed to audio recorded later (studio voice-over, Foley, etc).
VO	Voice-over is also commonly referred to as "off camera" commentary. The term voice-over can also refer to the actual voice actor who performed the recording. The terms voice actor, narrator, voice artist, and announcer are all similarly used.
VOSOT	Voiceover/sound on tape. This is a story in which the news anchor reads copy while video plays, and then a short sound bite plays while the anchor stops reading, and then the anchor reads the end of the story. Also spelled vo/sot or vo/b for "voiceover/bite."
XCU	Extreme close up
XLS	Extreme long shot

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Common Terms/continued

Lead-in	Lead The first few sentences of script that establish the setting and events of a news story. Introduces the topic to the viewer.
Lower Third	Refers to the lower portion of the frame, which contains graphical information such as station, ID, name/title keys, etc.
Rule of Threes	During postproduction, the edited clips are grouped by audio and video into segments of three sentences per style or format. For example, there would be three sentences of reporter standup, and then three sentences of reporter narration over footage, then two or three sentences of interviews or comments by guests, and finally three sentences of reporter standup summary. Following this rule keeps the report interesting by increasing the complexity and pace of the report and avoiding spending too much time (and script) on one component. The viewer's interest is maintained through the constant use of varying visual and auditory stimuli.
Sound bite	A video taped segment in which the audio and video portions of the tape must remain in sync. Sound bites are usually three to five seconds in length.
Stand-up	Refers to an on-camera shot of a reporter as he or she presents information about the topic.
Supers	Text messages that flash across the screen to support key voice-over points.
Tag	A standard format for the final sentence of script ending an ENG report. Identifies the reporter (by name) and station affiliation.
Package	A prerecorded piece that includes a narration or voice over, interviews, and natural sound. A package is also referred to as a story.

This information includes a variety of sources which I have gleaned over the years. It would be difficult or impossible to identify the original source for each definition.