



Step 3: Tightening Tension

Richard Leigh – Filmmaker

Before watching Richard Leigh's interview, discuss what you know about using Step 3: Tightening Tension in informative writing.

Now watch the interview and use the following questions to prompt discussion as a whole class or in groups.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Richard Leigh think tension is so important in documentary filmmaking?
2. What does Richard find difficult about creating tension in his films?
3. What is Richard looking for when he edits the footage for his films?
4. How is filmmaking different writing when it comes to creating tension?
5. What different elements of a film can be used to build tension?
6. How does Richard use opposition and contrast to create tension in his work?
7. How does Richard use sound effects/music (sound design) to create tension in his work?
8. Did Richard mention any tension techniques that you hadn't heard of or used before?
9. Did Richard use any familiar techniques in ways that surprised you?
10. Did you get any ideas about how you could use particular techniques in your own writing? If so, what were they?

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY

Ask students to form small groups and pick one of the tension techniques Richard mentioned. Get students to brainstorm ideas on how they could use the technique to create tension in a documentary about a topic they are currently studying in class. As a group, students pick their favourite idea and create a storyboard showing how the audio and visuals would work together (see Storyboarding template on *Teacher Hub*).