

Commentary Writing with Patrick Uden - 1 Day

OBJECTIVES

To give trainees the skills to write effective commentary for factual programming

CONTENT

- The role of commentary - what is commentary for?
- The key to writing simple, audience friendly commentary
- Writing for listeners rather than readers
- Commentary in context. What can be learnt from pre and post war examples.
- How to over come writer's block. Where to look for inspiration. Sourcing ideas from surprising places....tabloids, pop songs and speeches
- Adding value with commentary. Translating what you know, and the audience doesn't, into efficient words. Where commentary goes wrong (how to avoid common mistakes)
- The commentary writing process: where to start, how long to take.
How to use rhythm to enhance commentary and aid meaning. Making your commentary fit.
How to tweak commentary to sync with pre-cut pictures or vice versa
- Layout. How should commentary look on the page. Writing with your voice over artist in mind. Examples of how correct layout can save time and money in the dubbing theatre.
- How to write for a "voice". Different style of commentary - how to get the tone right.

FORMAT

Small group work and discussion.

Focusing on early drafts of scripts and first cuts. Suggesting and discussing changes and re-working commentary. Pair work, practical "live" writing exercises.