

The Creative Editing Blueprint

Stage 1: The Plan

- Get familiar with the goal of the piece
 - Read script
 - Review creative brief
 - Talk with director, producer or client
 - Study your own notes
- Figure out driving elements
 - Character dialogue
 - Narration
 - Music
 - Visuals
 - Signature sound

Stage 2: The Prep

- Set up project with folder and bin structure
- Watch and review all sources to get familiar with material
- Organize your materials for efficient access
 - Create custom columns in your bins for meta data
 - Use consistent wording in your descriptions

Stage 3: The Rough Cut

- Block in your scene with key moments
- Add additional camera angles as needed

Stage 4: The Fine Cut

- Adjust overall pacing and timing
- Shift and trim sections
- Add more reaction shots, insert shots and wide shots
- Manipulate some aspects with stylized effects

Stage 5: Sound Editing

- Insert scene based sound effects
- Layer in foley
- Add wild lines
- Cut in music
 - Custom score
 - Production cue
- Sound design, "The Holy Trinity"
 - Swish
 - Suckback
 - Bassy hit

Stage 6: Final Adjustments

- Awkward edits
- Mistimed sound effects
- Confusing story points
- Interruptions in flow
- Color correction
- Mattes
- Fine tuning audio
- Adjust levels to carve out dialogue from music and sound effects
 - Mixing with keyframes
 - Mixing with add-edits