



Indicative A response

Soap opera proposal

Year 9

English

Section 1. Write a synopsis

Information for teachers: The synopsis and storyboard are presented separately here to make it easier to mark students' work. In student responses, the synopsis should be included in the business letter proposal with the storyboard attached.

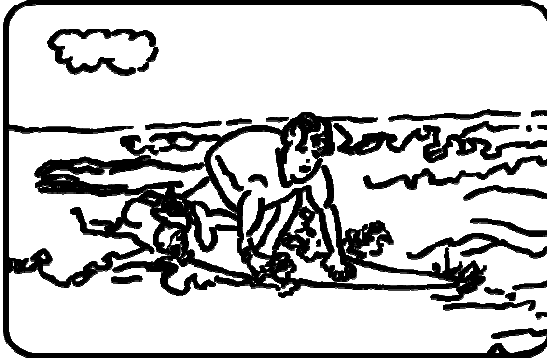
Synopsis

The name of the soap opera is "Beach Shop", and a lot of the action occurs around the local shop which is just across the road from the beach where the local kids hang out, swim and surf. Each episode follows the lives of the cool young teens that live in the area and go to the local high school. There will be opportunity for romantic encounters, sporting achievements and family drama.

Of course one of the characters will be someone everyone loves to criticise, however, to add a twist – characters will be introduced that do not fit the usual stereotype. For example, in the first season a character called Steve is included. Steve is blind and really well accepted by all the other characters. In fact, they do not treat him any differently, so in some ways this will be a chance for the audience to learn about people who may not be the same as they are but also given the opportunity to learn about the challenges Steve experiences. One of these challenges is learning to surf.

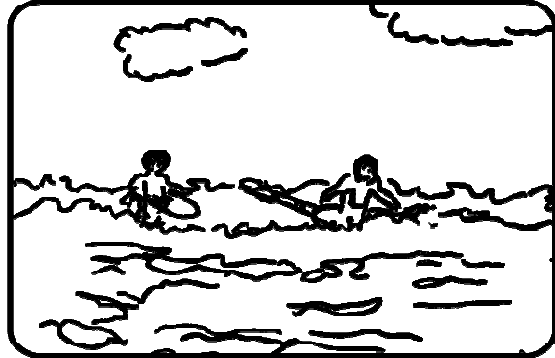
Section 2. Create a storyboard

Information for teachers: An "A" response shows a key scene with brief descriptions for each shot, including the type of shot. This example shows a medium long shot (MS), long shot (LS), two shot (TS), low camera angle (LCA) and high angle (HA).



Shot #1 Steve MLS

Arms positioned in a push-up position - ready to pop up into a surf stance.



Shot #2 Steve + Instructor LS

Surfing together in a coral reef where the waves gently roll in.



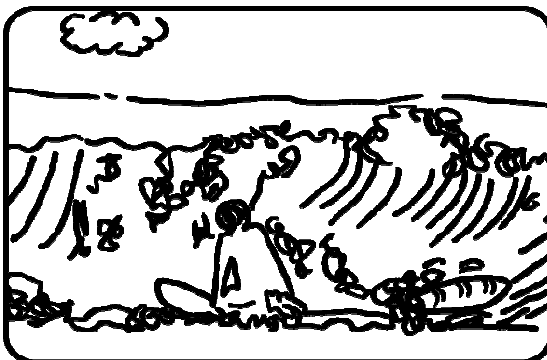
Shot #3 Steve + Instructor TS

Surfing together in bigger waves - (different beach).



Shot #4 Instructor LCA

Falls off board as he dodges a collision with another surfer, but hits his head on the board.



Shot #5 Steve MLS

All alone listening for a break in the water until he suddenly hears his instructor gulping for air.



Shot #6 Steve HA

Paddles towards his instructor, picks him up and surfs back to the beach a hero.

Section 3. Write a proposal

Information for teachers: This proposal is formatted as a business letter. The address and name are fictional. The synopsis and storyboard would be included as one.

Soap Opera Enterprises

ABN: 002239478

27 November 2008

Mr Grant MacMoney
Mega Entertainment Television Productions
2358 Packer Avenue
PALM BEACH QLD 4013

Dear Mr MacMoney

One of the most persistent problems in soap operas in Australia is their lack of or misrepresentation of non-stereotypical characters. For example, in current soap operas people with a disability or particular ethnic background are not represented or poorly represented, which can lead to people feeling isolated in society. Our research at Soap Opera Enterprises indicates that the key to improving this situation is the integration of non-stereotypical characters in a soap opera aimed at the pre-adolescent to teenage market.

Our proposal for a new soap opera fits well with Mega Entertainment Television Productions' interests for making cutting edge television programs and for addressing current issues in society.

A synopsis of the proposed soap opera is below:

The name of the soap opera is "Beach Shop," and a lot of the action occurs around the local shop which is just across the road from the beach where the local kids hang out, swim and surf. Each episode follows the lives of the cool young teens that live in the area and go to the local high school. There will be opportunity for romantic encounters, sporting achievements and family drama.

Of course, one of the characters will be someone everyone loves to criticise, however, to add a twist — characters will be introduced that do not fit the usual stereotype. For example, in the first season a character called Steve is included. Steve is blind and really well accepted by all the other characters. In fact, they do not treat him any differently, so in some ways this will be a chance for the audience to learn about people who may not be the same as they are but also given the opportunity to learn about the challenges Steve experiences. One of these challenges is learning to surf.

A storyboard of a scene from the soap opera is attached to this letter. It involves a really exciting moment where Steve is out surfing with his instructor who gets into difficulty, and it is Steve who rescues him and gets him back to shore. The audience will admire Steve's heroism and learn from his tenacity. In fact, this particular storyline comes from a real life Hawaiian instructor who teaches

blind people to surf. It is the authenticity of this episode that will promote the fact that people with disabilities can do anything they set their minds to and highlight the uniqueness of this soap opera.

We, at Soap Opera Enterprises, are seeking funding for a pilot program for "Beach Shop" in the amount of \$300 000. We believe the soap opera will bring a positive change in society and continue to promote Mega Entertainment Television Productions.

I will contact you within the month to arrange a meeting. If you have any questions before that time, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jess Brown

Manager

Soap Opera Enterprises

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