

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

Engineering Technology Department

Green Screen

Process: The principal subject is filmed or photographed against a background consisting of a single color or a relatively narrow range of colors, usually blue or green because these colors are considered to be the furthest away from skin tone.

Processing a Green Backdrop: Green is currently used as a backdrop more than any other color because image sensors in digital video cameras are most sensitive to green. Therefore, the green camera channel contains the least "noise" and can produce the cleanest key. Additionally, less light is needed to illuminate green, again because of the higher sensitivity to green in image sensors. Bright green has also become favored since a blue background may match a subject's eye color or common items of clothing such as jeans.

Tips for using the Green Screen

- **Prepare Your Green Screen**

If you have imperfections on your green screen they will show in your key. Make sure your screen is clean and free of wrinkles. If your screen is made of washable fabric you should wash, dry, and iron it before the shoot. If you are using a paper screen make sure the section you are using as the foreground is free of stains, cracks, or tears.

- **Prepare Your Subject**

Never place your subject right next to the screen. Move your subject as far away from the screen as possible. Make sure your subject wears clothes that are a

different color than your background. Make sure you avoid greens, browns and khaki for green screens and jeans and other blue clothes for blue screens. You don't want them to blend into the scene or disappear. Avoid wearing jewelry. If your subject has frizzy or wild hair you might want to pull their hair back, have them wear a hat, or just find a new subject.

- **Get Your Light Right**

Taking care to make sure your lights are set up right way will prevent a multitude of photo snafus and save time when editing. The right setup will make your key truly believable. **An incorrect set up will lead to green halos, bleeding colors, and other blending issues.** In order to avoid these errors you must light the foreground and the background separately. Your green screen must be lit separately. Make sure the light in the background is at a lower level than the light in the foreground.

- **Clothing**

The subject must avoid wearing clothes which are similar in color to the chroma key color (unless intentional e.g. wearing a green top to make it appear that the subject has no body).