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Making Movies from Reality

What is involved in making movies based on reality?

Hollywood has frequently been criticized for the lack of reality in some of its movies. This may be changing. In recent years more movies are based on reality or real life.

More film producers, writers, and agents have been watching the news. They're watching for ideas for movies. They watch for real-life drama that can be translated into a hit at the box office.

The president of one production company says, "We take newspapers and magazines from every section of the country. We have people review every article. They're searching for ideas for an award-winning picture. I even read some of the articles myself."

Kina Yang is president of National Entertainment. She says, "We tape the television news every night. Our writers then view and discuss the possibilities each news item would have for a film. We file some of them away for future reference.

Sometimes, there is a news story that really excites us. When that happens, we contact the people involved immediately. If we think the story has good possibilities, we want to get there. We want to acquire the movie rights before another producer does.

We make a phone call. Then we may have our attorney on the next plane out to acquire the rights."

Yang was asked, "What are other problems related to creating movies from reality?" Quickly she responds, "Protests and lawsuits. We've done some pictures where local authorities protested strongly. They may protest strongly if the story is about a person who has become a victim because local authorities have neglected to do their job.

We are very concerned about being sued. We have our attorney and our insurance company's attorney view each picture several times before it is aired."

An official from Reality Pictures says, "Last year there was a news story about a high school girl overcoming unbelievable odds. She was being named 'Athlete of the Year' by her school. We knew immediately the story had good possibilities.

I made the phone call. Then I was on the next plane. I didn't make it. An attorney for another producer managed to get there before I did. He acquired the rights."

Nadine Nelson is a writer for Reality Pictures. She has become very good at creating drama from real events. She explains, "I like the challenge of combining several news events into one story. However, that can take time. Sometimes, I file a news story or an idea away. Then a year later I see a similar news story. I try to combine the two but without much luck. There seems to be a part missing. Then a year later I see a third news story that gives me the missing part.

The idea of movies from reality is not new. The old FBI movies I watched so much when I was in high school were created by using information from FBI files. Sometimes, they combined several cases to make the story more appealing."

"Yes," says Kina Yang, "the trend of creating drama from real life has become popular again. This trend seems to take place every few years. I think we will see much more reality coming out of Hollywood the next few years."

A. New Words

- 1 **acquire**
- 2 **attorney**
- 3 **criticize**
- 4 **insurance**
- 5 **reality**
- 6 **translate**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

- 1. The word that means “lawyer or a person who is legally appointed to do business for another person” is _____.
- 2. Howard knew that by his having good grades, passing driver’s training, and having a safe driving record, his _____ would cost less.
- 3. They speak different languages so they will need someone to _____ what they want to communicate to each other.
- 4. **Praise** is to **give credit** or **compliment** as _____ is to **find fault** or **blame**.
- 5. The word that goes with capture, gain, secure, and receive is _____.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

- 6. Some people who work for film producers watch the news daily. They hope to identify
 - a. people who would like to be in a movie.
 - b. good attorneys to acquire movie rights.
 - c. real-life drama that can be translated into a good movie.
 - d. what kinds of movies people like to watch.6. _____
- 7. Which happens *last*?
 - a. Tape-recorded news is reviewed by writers and agents.
 - b. The attorney is on the plane to acquire movie rights.
 - c. The film producer’s attorney and insurance company’s attorney review the movie several times.
 - d. A story is identified as having good possibilities for a movie.7. _____
- 8. The producer sees a news story she thinks might be a good possibility for a movie. The producer’s attorney may be on the next plane
 - a. to acquire the movie rights before another producer does.
 - b. to make the movie from reality.
 - c. to combine the story with another real-life story to translate into an award-winning picture.
 - d. to do all the above.8. _____
- 9. As used in this article, “translate” means to change from
 - a. one language to another.
 - b. one style or form to another.
 - c. one place to another—transfer.
 - d. complicated to simple.9. _____
- 10. Another title for this article might be
 - a. Attorneys and Insurance Agents Make Good Movies
 - b. It Takes Three Real-Life News Stories to Make an Award-Winning Movie
 - c. Authorities Protest Creating Movies from Local News
 - d. Translating News into Movies10. _____

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. WORDS SPELLED ALMOST ALIKE

Read the lists of words below. As you read each word, think about its meaning. Practice reading the words to yourself.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1.
a. clutch
b. crutch | 2.
a. inform
b. reform | 3.
a. squirm
b. squirt |
| 4.
a. van
b. vane | 5.
a. present
b. presence | 6.
a. absent
b. absence |
| 7.
a. expect
b. respect
c. aspect | 8.
a. impress
b. depress
c. express | 9.
a. mutter
b. clutter
c. gutter |
| 10.
a. leak
b. bleak
c. creak | 11.
a. trace
b. truce
c. trice | 12.
a. survive
b. revive
c. revise |



Citizens Oppose Pre-Release Center

Why would a judge allow federal prisoners to live beside a school?

A judge has granted permission for a company to proceed with plans to open a pre-release center for federal prisoners. The center is beside York High School. Area citizens opposing the idea have criticized the judge. They vow to continue their fight.

Jo Zain is the leader for the group opposing the plan. She asks, "What is wrong with this judge? Why would any judge grant this permission? Does he know a pre-release center will be operating within 10 feet (3 meters) of our school?"

She declares, "We're not going to allow it. We've vowed to stand up and fight. We've got to protect our students and our fine neighborhood."

Last year a law was passed that does not allow the operation of this type of center within 2,000 feet (600 meters) of a school. Judge Alfred Wilson ruled the center next to the high school was scheduled to be occupied before the law was passed.

The center will house federal prisoners who are about to be released. The idea is to help the prisoners adjust to a free society. They are to live at the center while looking for jobs or working.

The center is to be operated by Social Help Enterprises, a private company. William Bright is the attorney for Social Help Enterprises. He says, "The company is scheduled to move prisoners into the apartment complex within a month."

Social Help Enterprises has a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. The contract is to house federal prisoners whose homes and families are in the York area.

Last year the company attempted to operate a pre-release center in west York. There, its operation was also criticized. It was opposed by several local groups.

Earlier this year, city officials became aware that Social Help Enterprises was housing prisoners at a York hotel. It was against zoning laws. The company was forced to cease operation at that location.

About two months ago residents became aware the company was remodeling a building near the school. The building was an apartment complex. Residents complained to city officials. The remodeling was stopped.

The company appealed to the court for permission to continue with the work. Last week Judge Wilson ruled the company could continue with its plans. He says, "My ruling was based on evidence presented by the company's attorney. That evidence was that the company was scheduled to occupy the complex before the passing of the new law. Thus, the new law does not apply."

Zain adds, "We understand the need for this type of center. But, there are many more appropriate locations. We are only opposing its being located next to our very fine high school."

"Our group has vowed to continue our fight against the opening of the center. We will appeal the judge's ruling to a higher court if needed."

Jay Jenkins is the attorney for the city. He says, "We will appeal Judge Wilson's decision. Obviously we'll have plenty of support from concerned citizens in the community."

A. New Words

- 1 **appropriate**
- 2 **complex**
- 3 **enterprise**
- 4 **federal**
- 5 **oppose**
- 6 **vow**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

1. The word that means “a sincere promise, pledge, or agreement” is _____.
2. He says he would like the challenge of becoming involved in a bold project, venture, or _____.
3. The word that may be used to refer to a “structure or building” and also means “complicated, involved, and elaborate” is _____.
4. **Translate** is to **change, explain in a simpler or different language,** or **transfer** as _____ is to **resist** or **challenge**.
5. The word that goes with fitting, proper, and suitable is _____.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

6. The apartment complex was to be occupied by
 - a. attorney offices.
 - b. area citizens.
 - c. high school students.
 - d. federal prisoners whose homes and families were in the York area.6. _____
7. Which happened *last*? Social Help Enterprises
 - a. was housing prisoners at a York hotel.
 - b. began remodeling the apartment complex.
 - c. was granted permission for proceeding with plans to open a pre-release center beside York High School.
 - d. appealed to the court for permission to continue with the remodeling.7. _____
8. Judge Alfred Wilson granted permission for Social Help Enterprises to continue with the plans. He says he did it because
 - a. the prisoners need help in adjusting from living in prison to living in a free society.
 - b. it was scheduled to be occupied before the state law was passed.
 - c. he didn't want it operating in a hotel.
 - d. the company appealed to the court for permission to continue.8. _____
9. As used in this article, “appeal” means
 - a. plea, request, or lawsuit.
 - b. interest, attract, or fascinate.
 - c. oppose, resist, or combat.
 - d. criticize, oppose, or vow.9. _____

10. What is the main idea of this article?
 - a. Social Help Enterprises wants to help federal prisoners adjust to living in a free society.
 - b. The new law does not allow a pre-release center for federal prisoners to operate within 2,000 feet (600 meters) of a school.
 - c. Citizens are upset with Judge Wilson's ruling that the center will be allowed to open.
 - d. The students were pleased to have the pre-release center for federal prisoners near their school.10. _____

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. TWO SHORT WORDS MAKE ONE LONG

As you read each word, think about the two short words that make the long word. Think about the meaning of the long word.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | 2. |
| a. outcome | a. handshake |
| b. outlaw | b. handwriting |
| c. outfield | c. handhold |
| 3. | 4. |
| a. background | a. pastime |
| b. backbone | b. wintertime |
| c. backfire | c. part-time |
| 5. | 6. |
| a. workshop | a. housekeeper |
| b. worktable | b. storekeeper |
| c. workroom | c. zookeeper |
| d. workmen | d. bookkeeper |