Simple Steps to Creating an Effective 30-Second Video PSA

The most important thing about creating a 30-second PSA is not trying to do too much. Keep it simple. Keep it engaging. Think about what your audience most needs to know about the topic.

- 1. Pick a topic you care about. Bicycle Safety
- 2. Pick an audience: Teens
- 3. Choose one main idea. It's not safe to have two people on a bike made for one person.
- 4. Keep your message clear and simple. Don't ride someone on your handlebars.
- 5. Find some data (if available). Real data will help to make your PSA more convincing.
- 6. Think visually. Try to show, not tell. *Show people in places where they should and shouldn't sit.*
- 7. Grab your audience's attention with humor, visual effects, emotion, or an unexpected twist. *Someone sitting in wet paint and getting dirty. Someone sitting in a teacher's chair and getting in trouble. Someone sitting on a wobbly desk and falling. Exaggerate the responses.*
- 8. Create a basic script. "Some places are designed for sitting...Some places are not."
- 9. Storyboard your script. Plan out who says/does what and in what order. *Show people sitting in the wrong places. Finish with someone being ridden on handlebars. Cut to black. Sound of crashing.*
- 10. Film.
- 11. Edit.
- 12. Add text to emphasize your key point. *Don't ride on the handlebars. It's not safe.*