How to plan and create a DVD portfolio flowchart

The content and purpose of DVD portfolios can vary widely. Student portfolios typically contain complete examples of video projects and collections of graphics, still images, and brief project segments. In addition, students can include videos in which they appear on-camera to introduce the production team and present background information on the projects.

Using DVDs as the media for your portfolios helps you put your best foot forward. Traditional portfolios move in one direction: start to finish. Your DVDs can be interactive, with multiple menus and media types so clients can quickly focus on what's important to them.

DVDs also have plenty of room for multiple projects that can play at full resolution on TV and computers. This means you can use high-quality video, audio, and images.

To take full advantage of the interactivity DVDs offer, start your DVD project by making a flowchart like one of the two shown in this guide.

Single-menu DVD showcase portfolio

A single-menu DVD portfolio contains several completed projects and a video with excerpts from multiple projects. In addition, it can have slide shows of production photographs, stills exported from the projects, or graphics used in the projects. You can use the DVD to highlight your expertise by showing examples of your best work.

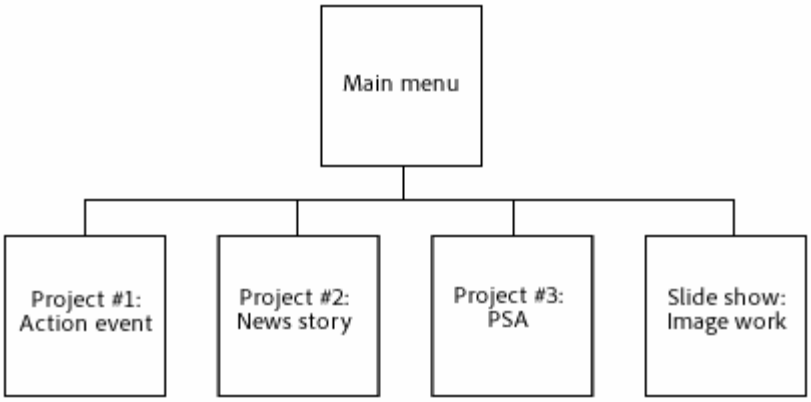
Video Projects

- Action event
- News story
- Public service announcement

Image work

- Production, on-location photographs
- Still images exported from the video projects
- Graphics used in the productions

Sample single-DVD flowchart:



A complete portfolio on a multiple-menu DVD

When you've completed a number of projects, consider making a demo reel to create that all-important first impression. The demo reel represents who you are and what you can do.

Your best bet is to start with a very brief video introduction—no more than 30 seconds—that ensures an immediate favorable impression. Then take your clients to a menu that gives them options to focus on what's important to them. You might have several video production strengths: action, sports, music, nature, news, PSAs, or corporate videos. In the first menu, let clients move right to a submenu of one of your specialties that's a match for what the client is looking for.

The submenu can have links to full-length projects, brief highlights, on-location production still images, graphics, and brief videos about your team and how you approach that video production specialty. You can also link this menu to a scene-selection menu where clients can jump directly to specific segments of a long production.

Video Projects

- Action event
- News story
- Public service announcement
- Commercial
- Mini-documentary

Image work

- On-location production photographs
- Still images exported from the video projects
- Graphics used in the productions

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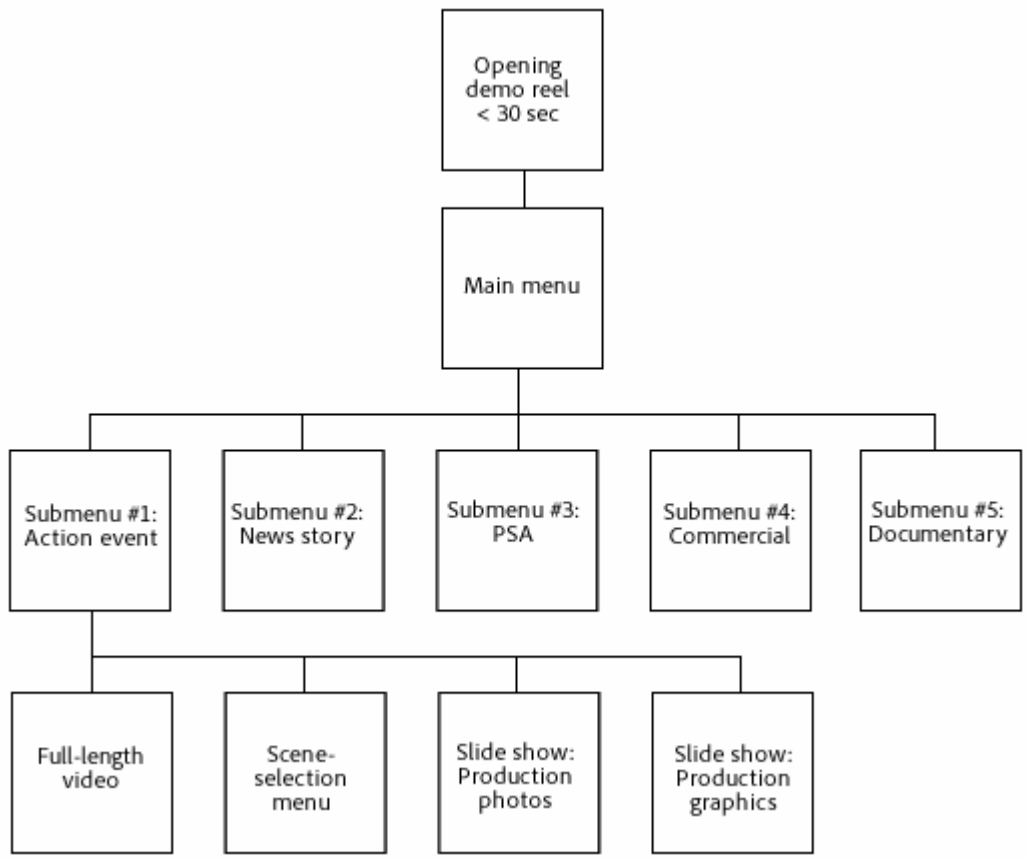
Sample single-DVD flowchart: