**Video Production – Documentary**

**Task 2 – Codes and Conventions**

**Actuality footage** is a recording of an actual event which is documented with the real people involved and not actors. For example the news will use ‘actuality’ footage to back up a topic at hand, so if you were to go back to the Birmingham Riots, there were many first-hand clips to the event, and showing the horror that they were causing, the news reporters or field reporter will also be talking over this to make it more clear to the audience. Another example would be the London Riots.

**Studio News Readers** are people who present news during a programme. People who open the news program, introducing themselves and the news broadcast, they will then read out certain news pieces and structure the programme.

**Field Reporters** are reporters on location - at the event, on a crime scene, by a landmark - frequently the studio reporters will link to the field reporter and they will be seen on screen talking about what’s happened where they are. Often the field reporter will have an eye witness with them and ask a couple of questions. The field reporter will back up what the Studio News Readers have been talking about.

**Interviewing** is when someone is being asked questions related to a certain topic, specialism or view, this is to gage a better understanding of what’s happened or get an opinion. Anyone can be interviewed so long as it’s a popular topic or something that most people would want to know more about. This is done because it offers a more informative, informal approach to the news, and this also makes it more personal to the viewer. It can be done with the reporter on screen or framed talking separately.

**Experts** are a factual portrayal of knowledge. They will often be used to balance the story so it does not appear bias. They also can back up a certain event, or giving professional notes, for example if a murder had taken place, there could be a witness who last seen the person, and then an expert explaining that scratches and wounds were found on the body etc.

**Witnesses** is someone who saw a certain event first-hand, they will only share their side of the story which can sometimes make it bias.

**Structure** is how the documentary is put together, whether it follows chronological order, or displays information that allows the documentary film maker to see situations in different ways.