

# Why is Law & Order: SVU so great? | Video Essay

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### **Executive summary**

Telephile, similar to the cinephile, means a person that has a passionate interest in television. Until recently while researching I stumbled onto this word and I would like to consider myself a telephile. Growing up watching tv shows has always been my only interest and hobby for many years, it still is. There's nothing better than watching a good quality tv show that makes you tune back in every week. Especially recently with the various streaming services now offered as an alternative to cable. But nothing beats that feeling of rushing home to catch your 8 pm show on a Friday after a long week or calling someone at home to record your show because you forgot to or rushing to the bathroom during commercials because the episode is so good you don't want to miss anything.

During the beginning of the pandemic, all I watched were tv shows and video essays on youtube. A video essay is a video that analyzes a specific topic or theme and proves an argument, similar to an essay. Being at home during the day, I was able to watch these marathons for Law & Order: Special Victims Unit on multiple channels. I had found an interesting show that had over 20 seasons that I could binge-watch. SVU is a tv show that shows both reality and fantasy in the way that justice is served to everyone, which isn't usually seen in the real world.

I want to create a video essay about Law & Order: SVU because I had knowledge and experience writing essays since middle school. I also want to take the skills that I have learned about video editing and apply them to my culmination project. I will collect video material such as downloads, screengrabs, mobile phone footage and create voice-overs. Adding voice-over, sound effects, music, and other aspects of multimedia in order to enhance my reasoning. I will use my research skills to find information and statements to support my argument. I would also take inspiration from various videos of Youtuber Nerdstalgic's editing style and apply it to my own

This project will appraise Law & Order: SVU, the longest-running primetime U.S. live-action series in the history of television. I will be persuading the audience why they should watch the show and give reasoning on why the series should never end. This video essay will recognize that SVU is an underrated show and help it gain more recognition.

### **Project Description**

The researcher is exploring the reasons why SVU is such a great show and why it should never end. Many viewers demand for shows that are entertaining, with memorable characters, good storylines, are representative of them, and up to date with current events. But there is such a

show. The resources that will be provided will be episodes from SVU, interviews from the actors, articles that have also discussed SVU. I expect to inform viewers, but also I also hope to find a community of people who watch the show as well. The end results can help me to have something to showcase at job interviews to show that I have a familiarity with editing software programs, which is a plus but also having an attention to detail. My attention to detail of what many may miss from a 40-minute episode, 60 minutes including commercials, can help demonstrate that I can accurately complete tasks through focus and precision. I will also be showcasing my planning process and I will be recording audio with a voice recorder app, editing using the software programs Avid Media Composer and Premiere Pro. I would be using a WBS chart to stay organized and to know how to manage everything. Thorough planning consists of an outline, storyboard, multiple drafts and notes, gathering of media, and research.

## **Methods**

- Footage (Youtube or Recorded):
  1. Law & Order: SVU episodes
  2. Other tv-shows
  3. Jena Friedman standup clip
- Interviews of actors:
  1. NBC's The View
- Articles:
  1. New York Times

## **Deliverables**

1. Calendar of research and writing
2. Detailed Notes for edits
3. Thorough planning of pre-production
4. Video Essay

## **Required resources**

1. iPhone
2. Computer
3. Hard drive
4. Premiere Pro
5. Avid Media Composer
6. Hulu

## Budget

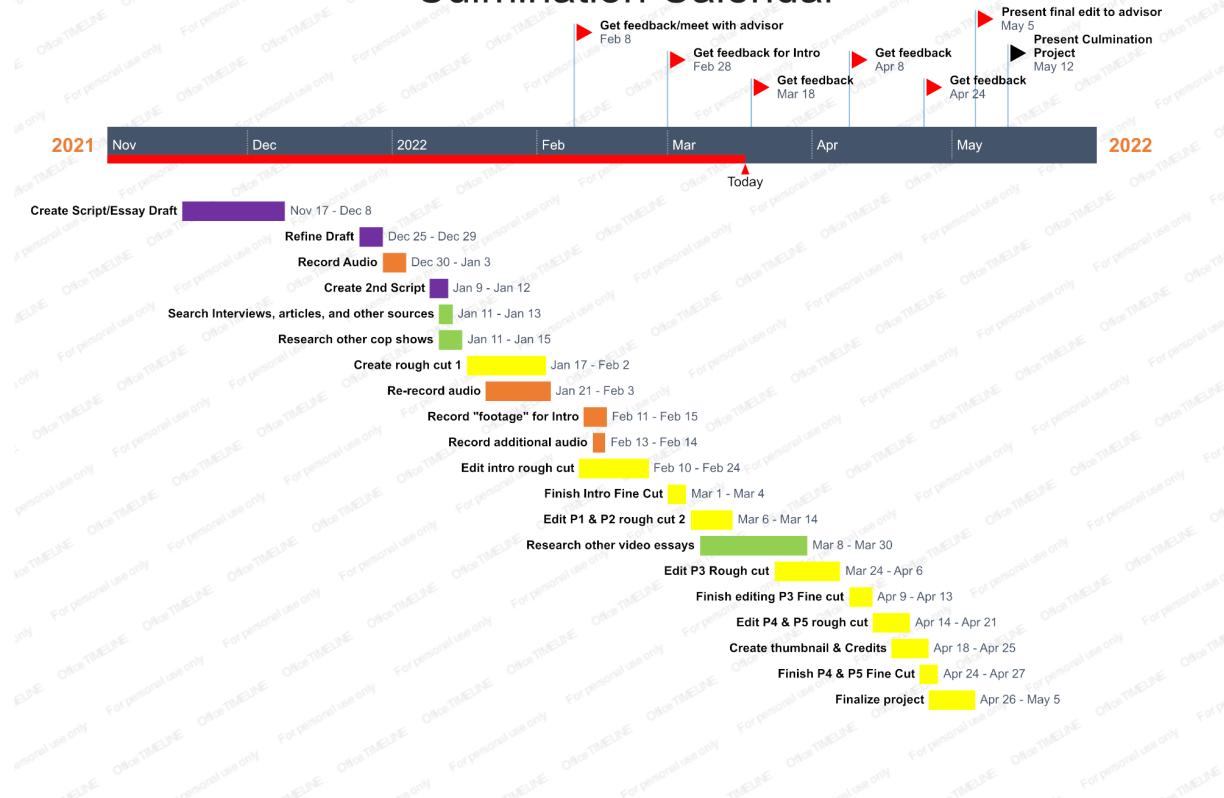
Item	Estimate Amount	Total Spent
Tripod (Own)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hulu Subscription (4 months)	\$40.00	\$39.96
Premiere Pro(1 month)	\$20.00	\$22.85
Avid Media Composer (Free)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hard Drive (Own)	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Estimate</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$62.81</b>

## Schedule/ Calendar

Create Script/Essay Draft	■ T ▾	16 days	11/17/2021	12/08/2021
Refine Draft	■ T ▾	3 days	12/25/2021	12/29/2021
Record Audio	■ T ▾	3 days	12/30/2021	01/03/2022
Create 2nd Script	■ T ▾	3 days	01/09/2022	01/12/2022
Search Interviews, articles, and other sources	■ T ▾	3 days	01/11/2022	01/13/2022
Research other cop shows	■ T ▾	4 days	01/11/2022	01/15/2022
Gather footage and begin editing	■ T ▾	14 days	01/17/2022	02/03/2022
Create rough cut 1	■ T ▾	13 days	01/17/2022	02/02/2022
Re-record audio	■ T ▾	10 days	01/21/2022	02/03/2022
Get feedback/meet with advisor	▶ M ▾	0 days	02/08/2022	02/08/2022
Record "footage" for Intro	■ T ▾	3 days	02/11/2022	02/15/2022
Record additional audio	■ T ▾	1 day	02/13/2022	02/14/2022
Edit intro rough cut	■ T ▾	11 days	02/10/2022	02/24/2022
Get feedback for Intro	▶ M ▾	0 days	02/28/2022	02/28/2022

Finish Intro Fine Cut	■ T ▼	4 days	03/01/2022	03/04/2022
Edit P1 & P2 rough cut 2	■ T ▼	6 days	03/06/2022	03/14/2022
Get feedback	▶ M ▼	0 days	03/18/2022	03/18/2022
Finish P1 & P2 Fine cut	■ T ▼	2 days	03/19/2022	03/22/2022
Research other video essays	■ T ▼	17 days	03/08/2022	03/30/2022
Edit P3 Rough cut	■ T ▼	10 days	03/24/2022	04/06/2022
Get feedback	▶ M ▼	0 days	04/08/2022	04/08/2022
Finish editing P3 Fine cut	■ T ▼	3 days	04/09/2022	04/13/2022
Edit P4 & P5 rough cut	■ T ▼	6 days	04/14/2022	04/21/2022
Get feedback	▶ M ▼	0 days	04/24/2022	04/24/2022
Finish P4 & P5 Fine Cut	■ T ▼	3 days	04/24/2022	04/27/2022
Create thumbnail & Credits	■ T ▼	6 days	04/18/2022	04/25/2022
Finalize project	■ T ▼	8 days	04/26/2022	05/05/2022
Present final edit to advisor	▶ M ▼	0 days	05/05/2022	05/05/2022
Present Culmination Project	▶ M ▼	0 days	05/12/2022	05/12/2022

## Culmination Calendar



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## **References**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXjmz8dFzRJZrZY8eFiXNUQ>