

Different Artistic Mediums

Use the graphic organizer below to make notes about how the director portrays the characters in a film version of Act I. Pay careful attention to the language, the sound effects, the physical elements (such as costumes and scenery), and camera angles in the film.

SCENE DESCRIPTION:

In Act 1, scene 1, servants from the two prominent feuding families quarrel and begin a brawl that affects the city of Verona.

Film Elements	Your Observations (The 1996 Baz Luhrmann Version)
Language	<p>The language is very similar to the original play; in fact, most lines read along with the text word-for-word. Luhrmann chose to leave some lines out and to switch some of the minor characters' lines. For example, in the original play, Sampson and Gregory are Capulets, and they are Montagues in the film. Likewise, Abram is a Montague in the play, but he is a Capulet in the film.</p>
Sound Effects	<p>The film version is very fast-paced with many loud sounds from modern times such as car tires squealing and guns shooting. The actors speak loudly and quickly as they say their lines. Additionally, the director chooses to emphasize other sounds that would normally be soft or indistinguishable in order to escalate the intensity of the scene, such as the creaking of the swinging gasoline sign and the crunching of Tybalt's boot as he crushes a lit match.</p>
Physical Elements	<p>The costumes of the film are modern: Montague family members wear open Hawaiian shirts and pants and have spiky hair. (One character even has pink hair.) The Capulet family members are dressed formally in nice button down shirts and dark slacks. All characters carry holsters with their guns in them just as a man</p>

	<p>from the Elizabethan era might have carried a sword. The guns (as well as many other items in the film) have religious images on them, such as Mother Mary. The setting of the scene looks very modern: it is just a regular gas station in the middle of a busy metropolitan area. The cars and helicopters adds to the modern feel of the film. A large religious statue looks over the entire city.</p>
<p>Camera Angles</p>	<p>Baz Lurhmann's style of shooting film is unique; just as the language moves quickly, so do the camera angles. The picture moves in and out with the pace of the action, and there are aerial shots and wide sweeping shots so that the audience can get a feel for the intensity of the fight as well as the huge impact on the city of Verona.</p>