3.5 COLOR GRADING

Color Grading is the process of changing the color of images to suit your style and taste. This is a creative process that is completely up to you and is powerful in creating looks that achieve certain emotions.

You may notice that in romantic movies, colors seem to be warm and red, while in action and super hero movies there is a lot of blue and teal. Our minds tend to associate certain emotions with certain colors. Here is a list of colors and their corresponding emotion or perception:

- Red: Passion, enhanced metabolism
- Orange: Sense of Welcoming, energy
- Yellow: Happiness, positivity
- Green: Harmony, stability
- Blue: peace, relaxation
- Purple: Luxury, romance
- Black: Power, elegance, edginess
- White: purity, simplicity
- Brown: Dependability, friendliness.

1. Presets

Adobe Premiere Pro CC has color grading presets available under Effects > Lumetri Looks. You can play with these preset looks on your image by dragging it to a clip on the timeline to see if it creates the colors that you are going for. If it does not, then continue with the tutorial to create your own looks.
To add a preset to multiple clips, go to New Item in your Project Panel, or right click the background of your Project Panel, and go to New Item > Adjustment Layer.

A window will pop up for you to establish the settings for your layer, but the default should match your sequence so keep it that way. After clicking “OK”, your adjustment layer can be found in your Project Panel.

Drag your Adjustment Layer onto your timeline on a video track above your clips. Once it is on your timeline, you can extend it and drag it so that it is hovering over all the clips you want to apply the preset to.

You can then drag any preset or effect onto your Adjustment Layer, and it will apply it to all the footage under it.

2. **Color Cast**

You may notice that in some action films, the film looks very blue, while in some western films, it has a very warm look to it. You can add these color casts by combining two things we have learned previously. Create
an adjustment layer on your entire film and drag the Fast Color Correction effect onto to the Adjustment Layer. Use the Color Wheel to add or remove a color by dragging the center circle in the direction of the color you want to add, or the opposite direction of the color you want to remove.

To get a better idea of how warm or cool the clips are in your project, you can open up the RGB (Red Green Blue) Parade scope that shows the levels of Red, Green, and Blue in your image from left to right. To display this scope, go to your Reference Settings > RGB Parade.

The top area of the waveform is the highlight area, the middle is the midtone, and the bottom is the shadow.

3. Software
   For more Color Grading features, learn more about Adobe Speed Grade, Black Magic’s DaVinci Resolve.