

Portraits of America

DEMOCRACY ON FILM



Autocracy on Film—*Gabriel Over the White House*
(1933, directed by Gregory La Cava)

How Do Filmmakers Create Depictions?

- **FRAMING AND COMPOSITION.** The arrangement of people and objects within the frame suggest meaning.
- **CAMERA ANGLES AND DISTANCES.** Camera placement determines how the viewer sees the subject.
- **LIGHTING.** The light source and its intensity determines how the viewer perceives the subject.
- **MOVEMENT.** Movement of both the camera and/or the subject within the frame suggests meaning.
- **ACTION AND REACTION SHOTS.** A character's behavior and how other characters react to that behavior suggests meaning.
- **SOUNDTRACK.** Dialogue (both what is said and how a line is delivered), sound effects, music, and silence all suggest meaning.

Analyzing Cinematic Depictions—Taking the Oath of Office



Analyzing Cinematic Depictions—The Oval Office



Notice of Termination



THE PRESIDENT REQUESTS YOUR RESIGNATION,
AND THAT OF EVERY OTHER MEMBER OF THE
CABINET IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A RECON-
STRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Judson E. Hammond.

Analyzing Cinematic Depictions—Addressing Congress



Contrasting Depictions

