

# Mean Girls: A Spike Lee Joint

---

Desarae Gilbert and Zahirah Poree

High shot, Pan inward to Regina

A high shot would show how Regina is the main focus. Her looking into the camera would intensify this scene and therefore knowing that what she's doing is going to cause a fight. This scene would be very hot with chaos going on as a result.

The setting is the school hallway. color palette here is warm showing the start of the climax.



## Two Shot, Rotating Pan

A two shot would have worked better here to establish the unity in them being together in the office. Spike Lee does this often to show the togetherness of the group. The color palette for both *Do The Right Thing* and *Mean Girls* is very warm and presents hot, bright scenes.

## Dialogue:

“Maybe we’re not in that book because everybody likes us. And I don’t want to be punished for being liked.”



Establishing Shot:  
Middle Camera Angle  
Long Shot

This is a warm color palette. The colors in this scene are shades of orange and yellow. This shows the rising temperatures in the atmosphere.

Dialogue: None.

Background Noise: students shuffling in the background, papers being picked up from the floor. People lightly talking.



The camera could follow the fight as it moved. Changing angles from the front of the fight to the back with a not so steady camera would capture the calamity of the situation.

Medium Shot  
Dolly/ Tracking Camera Movements to follow the action.

This is a hot color palette or a “hot scene” to emphasize the tension buildup and the building anger.

Dialogue:

“ Girls! Girls! Stop this right now!”

The camera could follow this scene as the different fights erupt, panning from left to right all from a zoomed in close angle.



# Justification

A long shot in the first scene should be used to show power in Regina's actions, the camera would begin to start panning downward as she walks forward dropping the papers. This would give the audience a clearer image to show that she is in power and has control over the situation. A close up shot is needed in the next scene because it shows the emotion Gretchen is trying to convey to get Principal Duvall to believe she has nothing to do with the burn book. She is trying to free herself of the inevitable explosion of tension by playing dumb. This establishing shot is really important in the scene because it is the beginning of the climax of the scene where people are finding the papers and realizing what the burn book was really about. This is where the tension build-up begins. The color for the entire movie would be more reds, oranges, and yellows; more bright, warm colors would give it more of a vibrant vibe.

# Justification Cont.

Mean Girls was mostly shot indoors while Do The Right Thing was more outside and into the community. Showing the unity of everyone while also showing the tensions between major characters. The tensions in the *Mean Girls* would be more intense about the same issues like the Burn Book or Regina getting hit by the school bus while also building up pressure throughout the whole movie. The fight scene in the hallway of the school would be more realistic and some main point would be the climax like Radio Raheem being killed because of police brutality.

In the first confrontation between Principal Duval and the girls, we would use low angle, front-facing zoomed in shots as each different character speaks. The audience would be able to see the tensions and rising arguments that lead to the ultimate fallout scene. This allows a deeper understanding of the cause of the tension buildup and why the characters feel the way they do. Like in Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*, because of the camera angles, the audience was able to clearly understand just how the tensions got to the point they did. We would use a wide variety of longshots, pans, and zooms so that the angry and fed up explosive emotions of the characters can clearly be seen throughout the duration of the film.