The film *I am Sam* creatively uses various techniques of the film industry to convey certain emotions, themes, and other aspects of the movie. The most effective techniques used were varying camera angles, shot lengths, color hues, and other visual effects.

In the opening scene, Sam is working at Starbucks, and the techniques of filming introduce him as a character with a disability. The camera angles show the confusion of Starbucks, and then the close-ups show how he handles the situation. The camera angles are jittery and the shots are very short, which match with the personality type of Sam. His actions and speech are short and choppy just as the camera shots are.

I believe that the choppy shots and confusion that the camerawork portrays foreshadows a deeper meaning in the film. It shows that confusion will play a major role in the case of Sam’s daughter. The choppy shots actually reappear in the court scene, which takes Sam’s daughter away from him. This also leads into the next technique of using camera color hues.

Camera lens hues play a major role in several scenes as well. The court scene, uses a dark shade of blue to portray a somber mood. The court scene is one of the most depressing scenes in the movie. In order to tone this scene down, the blue hue softened the colors. The softening effect creates a mood in which one is more relaxed. Blue is a relaxing color compared to red or orange or another bright color. The reason for a relaxed color, even in a scene which
produces many emotions, is that relaxed and depressed moods are very similar. These moods are clearly reflected on the facial expressions of the characters.

Other visual techniques effectively used in the film were techniques such as concentrating on facial expressions. You can tell a lot by analyzing facial expressions. The close up of these expressions make the issues a lot more personal because the emotions are very observable in the faces of the characters. Personalization makes it easier for the audience to relate to the situation of the characters. Sam’s inability to convey his thoughts makes it easy for the audience to feel sympathetic because they know what he wants, and that he cannot get this feeling out. Sam’s lawyer’s inability to cope with her family situation is evident in her anger. This anger is exaggerated in the close up camera shots of her face. The resentment against her cheating husband comes across clearly in her tensed facial expression when she is mad. The close up of Lucy’s facial expressions show her innocence and love for her father, Sam. Her huge eyes make her appear young and innocent, which is a device used effectively by the film to gain sympathy for the reunification of Lucy and Sam. Also, her facial expressions show the deep love that she has for her father, and as it turns out, it is this deep love (even after the court scene) that shows enough evidence for Sam and Lucy to be reunited as a family.

Overall, filming techniques are used effectively to create a specific mood, to create a particular emotion, and most importantly, a particular audience response. The techniques gave depth to the film, and gave the movie a unique quality of visual emotion. Controlling visual emotion plays a key role in audience emotion, which is the basis for the entire film.