

Shooting Tips

- **Keep the camera close.**
 - For interviews, the camera should be less than 3 feet away.
 - The microphone in the camera needs to be close to the person talking.
- **Find a quiet place to do interviews.**
 - A noisy environment will be a distraction. Loud or constant noises will make it difficult for your audience understand what the interviewee is saying.
- **Steady shots are less distracting.**
 - Hold the camera close to your body and brace your elbows on your rib cage.
 - Try to hold a shot for at least 10 seconds without moving.
 - A camera move to the left or right is called a pan and is best used to follow an action, such as a person walking.
 - Pan left or right using a slow and steady movement. Try turning at the waist for a steady pan.
- **Think about the visuals of your story and shoot them in sequence.**
 - A sequence means that for every action, you have a variety of shot lengths.
 - Think 3 to 1:
 - Wide – establishes place and shows WHERE the action is happening.
 - Medium – reveals WHO is speaking or performing an action. It is the most common shot. It's close enough to reveal details but wide enough to show movement.
 - Close Up or Tight – focuses on a detail and shows WHAT thing or object is the focus of attention.
 - **Getting your shot.**
 - Wide shots are accomplished by standing far away from the object you are shooting.
 - Medium shots are accomplished by getting close enough to a person to show him or her from approximately the waist up.
 - Close Up or Tight shots are accomplished by getting close enough that an object fills the frame of the camera.

- **Keep your shots interesting by using different angles.**
 - Low angles and high angles provide different points of view:
 - A high angle of a child can make her look small and powerless.
 - A low angle of man can make him look large and powerful.
 - Use these angles with care.
- **Hold your shot for at least 10 seconds.**
 - Pick a shot, hit record and wait 10 seconds before moving on to next shot.
 - This will give you more to work with in editing.
 - When you hit record, wait at least 3 seconds before an interviewee starts speaking.
- **Be Respectful.**
 - Get permission before shooting footage of someone.
 - If someone does not wish to be filmed, respect his or her right to privacy.
 - You must have permission to shoot video in a private business.
 - It's probably not a good idea to shoot video in your workplace.
- **It's all about the story!**
 - Keep these tips in mind when shooting video, but allow yourself to have fun and experiment. Think about your story and what images would work best to support your ideas.