



Introduction

Topics we will be covering

- How to shoot video using cell phones, including considerations for the following aspects: phone accessories, composition, camera motion, lighting, time of day
- Editing tips, techniques and available software
- Audio tips, techniques and available software
- Considerations for making videos that will be published - Legal documents, royalty free music and video files.

<https://tinywow.com/tools>





Introduction

Tips for filming during the pre-production phase of making a video

- **Research** - Research the legal documents needed to get permission to film at your desired location, research royalty free audio and terms of use for music files, research the capacity of the equipment you have and learn to use the equipment and editing software
- **Planning** – Plan your scripts, and the time of day to film at various location. Tools to help planning include a checklist of equipment needed, a shot lists and a content planner for multiple film projects. Before going out to film, test if equipment is working, charge all batteries, save all files in camera on external storage spaces and clear the memory out the camera to use for filming the night before the shoot.
- **Practice** – Practice to a point where you are comfortable using equipment for filming, interviewing and editing before filming.



Introduction

Tips for filming during the production phase of making a video

- **Proper music and vocal sound** – Ensure the voices of interviewees are clear and audible, edit film shots in time to the music beat to enhance the film and consider using sound effects to make shots more engaging.
- **Proper lighting** - Consider time of day to get the best natural lighting. Use external lights if necessary but place them in areas to give the subject the best appearance on film.
- **Film shots** - Still shots work best for A roll when interviewing people and use B roll for shots that enhance an action or situation. Ensure shots are well composed. Be creative and do not limit yourself to the rules of filming.



Tripods



Gimbals



Mics



Lavaliers



Accessories that will improve film making on a phone

Lenses



External battery



External storage
space



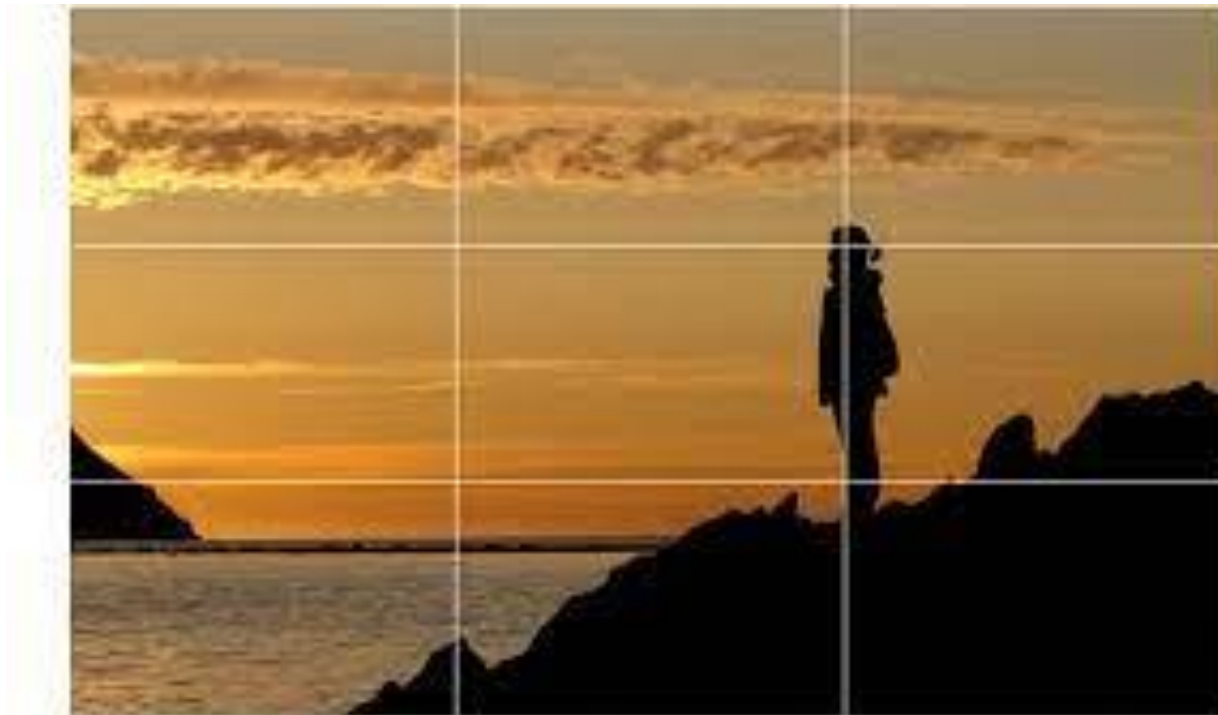
External light





Composition

- The rule of thirds
- Used to draw focus to a subject or object





Composition

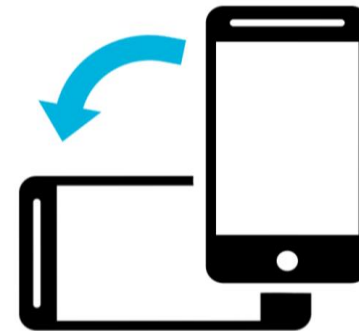
- Leading lines
- Used to draw your eyes to a particular object or subject





In camera tools to improve composition

- Go to the settings of your phone
- enable the grid function to show on the screen when taking picture
- Landscape vs portrait





Depth of field

The proximity of a camera focus to a subject

Deep focus

- show the subject and background clearly



Shallow focus

- shows the subject clearly but not the foreground or the background



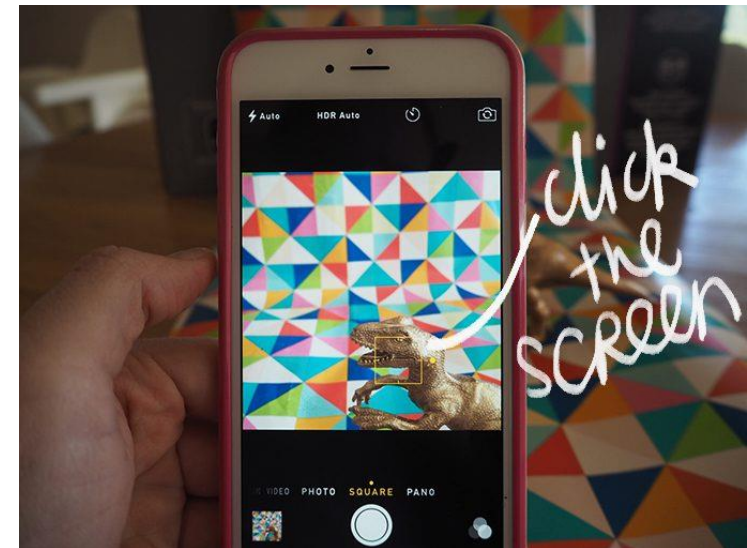
Rack focus

- Changes the focus from one subject to another



How to change the depth of field on your phone

- Tap the screen on your phone to the desired area you want in focus
- Hold your finger on the screen to the desired area you want to freeze focus on
- For rack focus shots, you can use cinematic mode or the equivalent option for android users to automatically changes the focus from one subject to another for you





Framing a subject in a shot

Close up head shots

- Intimate but if overused can make the audience uncomfortable



Close head and torso shots

- Commonly used for interviews. Easy for the audience to look at



Head and body shots

- Commonly used to show the background with an interviewee
- Easy for the audience to look at





Tips for framing a subject in a shot

- Move the camera to the desired distance from the interviewee
- Ensure that the subject has enough “look room” i.e. more space between the direction the subject is looking and the edge of the frame.
- Use a tripod if possible





Any questions so far?



Static shots



When the camera is locked into a fixed position with focus in one area

- Used for moments of dialogue between characters
- To allow an actor's performance to shine
- To highlight beautifully composed scenery
- To trap a character suggesting that they are helpless



Tips to capture static shots with a phone

- Try to minimize camera shake for these shots
- Compose your shot
- If using hands only, use two hands, tuck in your elbows and hold your position for as long as the scene requires to minimise camera shake
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake
- Use a tripod. Remember to weigh it down so that it does not fall over especially if outdoors
- Rest it on an elevated leveled platform (e.g. a table)



Pan shots



When the camera rotates horizontally (the x axis) left to right while remaining in a fixed position

- Used to follow a character
- To reveal information on a scene
- Slow pan builds anticipation of a shot
- Fast pans (aka whip pan) elevates the energy of a shot



Tips to capture pan shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and stand with legs apart.
- Turn from the hips from left to right to minimise camera shake
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake
- Use a tripod. Remember to slacken the bolts that secures the horizontal axis of the camera from moving



Tilt shots



- When the camera rotates Vertically (the y axis) up or down while remaining in a fixed position
- Highlight the scale of something tall or short in a scene
- Can be used to reveal a strong or weak character
- Can be used to reveal a scene that is large and/or distant



Tips to capture tilt shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and stand with legs apart
- Bend or extend from the elbows
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake
- Use a tripod. Remember to slacken the bolts that secures the vertical axis of the camera from moving



Push in shots



- When the camera is moved towards the subject
- Used to highlight an important scene or a specific detail in a scene (e.g. text or an object)
- Can be used to reveal internal conflict within a character
- A slow push in elevates tension



Pull out shots



- When the camera is moved away from the subject
- Used to minimize emphasis on a particular subject
- Can be used to reveal the context of a scene, settings and/or characters
- Can be used to illicit negative emotions such as isolation of a character



Tips to capture Push in and pull out shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and stand with legs apart one in front the other
- Bend or extend from the knees moving forward or backward
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake
- Use a tripod. Remember to slacken the bolts that secures the vertical axis of the camera from moving



Zoom in and zoom out shots



- When the camera is locked into a fixed position with focus in one area but the focal length within the camera is changed to zoom in or zoom out
- Used in the same way push in and pull out shots are used
- It is unique in that a person's eye cannot zoom in or zoom out making this an unnatural experience for people
- Fast zooms (aka crash zooms) can be used for dramatic or comedic effect.



Tips to capture Zoom in and Zoom out shots with a phone

- Use the same tips recommended for static shots
- Set your phone to the highest quality video settings possible
- When recording pinch the screen to zoom in and do the opposite motion to zoom out
- Not recommended to overuse this technique with a phone as the quality of the film degrades the more you zoom in



Camera roll shots



- When the camera is turned on its long axis while maintaining the direction of the lense with focus in one area
- Used to disorient the audience or visually show a villain getting the upper hand



Tips to capture camera roll shots with a phone

- Hold the face of your phone with the palm of your hand
- Extend your arm fully and rotate from the wrist, elbow and shoulder
- Gimbles can be set to do camera rolls as well



Tracking shots



- When the camera is moved typically following a subject
- Used to follow or lead a subject
- Creates intrigue of a character and tension
- Used to give a documentary style effect



Tips to capture tracking shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and walk in the direction of the subject
- Avoid as best as possible bouncing up and down to reduce camera shake
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake



Trucking shots



- When the camera is moved typically following at the side of a subject
- Used to follow the actions of a subject
- Can be used to reveal more of the story as the subject passes various locations



Tips to capture trucking shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and walk in the direction of the subject with the camera facing the side of the subject
- Avoid as best as possible bouncing up and down to reduce camera shake
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake



Arc shots



- When the camera is moved around a static subject
- Used to bring energy to a static subject
- Can be used to reveal more of the story as the subject passes various locations



Tips to capture arc shots with a phone

- Tuck in your elbows and walk around subject with the camera facing the subject
- Avoid as best as possible bouncing up and down to reduce camera shake
- Use a gimbal if available to further minimise camera shake



Random shots

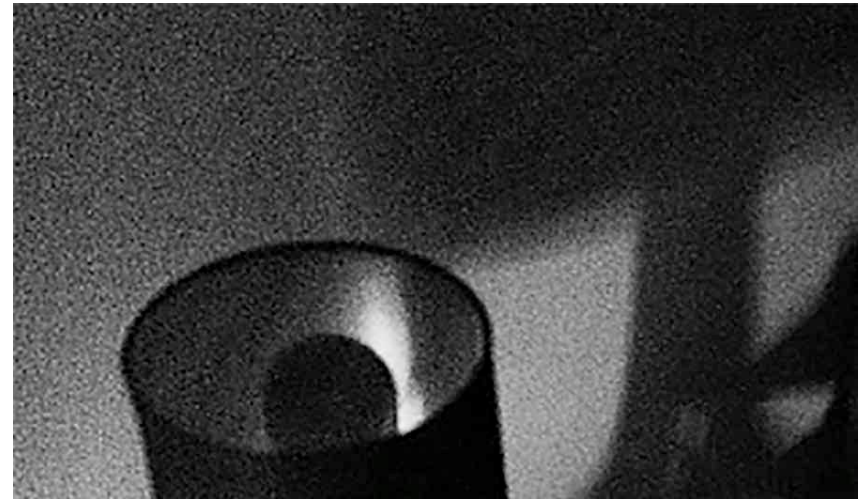


- When the camera is moved randomly
- Used to bring a documentary look
- Gives the illusion that everything is happening in real time and anything can happen



Lighting

- Good lighting is necessary for highlighting a subject
- Under low light conditions, videos can become noisy and will not give you a quality shot





Tips to great lighting with a phone

- Shoot shadow side (adds dimension to the subject)
- Lighting direction (shoot light at 45 degrees on the subject face just enough to highlight the cheek bone on the shadow side of the face)
- Add background light (adds depth and ambient light)
- Time of day (golden hour, cloudy weather)
- Reflect light in the eyes (Eye light makes the subject look alive)





Editing

- Stitching audio and shots together to make one seamless film
- Done in post production phase of filming
- Davinci resolve - free editing tools with
 - transitions
 - Colour grading
 - Audio editing
- Recommend to get a gaming system to efficiently render videos using this editing software



Editing tips

- Organise your footage
- Use speedramps to slow down or speed up shots
- The ken burns effect (for images with no motion)
- Transitions
- Adding sound effects
- Templates and presets



Free apps to edit in a phone

- Tiktok
- Snapchat
- iMovie
- Videoleap



Snapchat





Audio

- More important than the visual component of a video
- Speakers in videos need to be clearly heard
- Recommended to use headphones with mic to capture audio if doing interviews.





Audio

- Lavaliers are also recommended to use for crisp audio from an interviewee
- If a shotgun mic is available recommended to use in outdoor environments.





Music and background audio tips and links

Listen to the audio downloaded for any watermarks

Free audio producing apps

- garageband

Royalty free background music by

- Youtube
- <https://pixabay.com/sound-effects/>
- Pixabay also offers soundeffects





Additional considerations for legal documentation

- Ensure you have the permission of all interviewees documented before filming
- Ensure you have permission to film at film site
- Use royalty/ copyright free music and video files
- Always read the fine print from any site that gives you access to royalty/ copyright free video or audio files
- Some sites may require you to pay to use their music for publication



Additional links for learning to make better film

- Shot list and scripting tips https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycpma_uITpA
- Equipment tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHFFoT3dAUk>
- Composition tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfBRNHNlyxE>
- Camera movement tips https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liyBo-qLDeM&list=PLEzQZpmbzckV0_a2QCO2qF9Yfe-LKSDha&index=6
- Audio tips https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HY_WxX5IVg
- Lighting tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGLi-c5dkY>
- Phone filming tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tDVUKMLgfU>
- Interviewing tips https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5f5c_7isbw
- Editing tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv3Hmf2Dxlo>
- Overall filming tips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60m37p-VZlw>