

Filmmaking With Your Phone

*Planning, Filming,
and Editing*



Worksheet

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Research

Find 3-5 videos that you want to emulate or reference when creating your own video. Look for ones that are in your field, convey information in a way you like, or provide you with a positive viewing experience. Especially if the video inspires you to watch more from that creator.

Video 1

What do you like about this video?

Does this video have elements that would work in your own? (Lighting, music, energy, etc.)

Video 2

What do you like about this video?

Does this video have elements that would work in your own? (Lighting, music, energy, etc.)

Video 3

What do you like about this video?

Does this video have elements that would work in your own? (Lighting, music, energy, etc.)

Video 4

What do you like about this video?

Does this video have elements that would work in your own? (Lighting, music, energy, etc.)

Video 5

What do you like about this video?

Does this video have elements that would work in your own? (Lighting, music, energy, etc.)

Conclusion

Looking at your notes on these videos, what do commonalities do you see? Are there aspects that you like that are in more than one video? Based on your research what elements might you want to incorporate into your own video? Did this process spark any ideas for your own video?

What's Your Story?

Narrowing down what to talk about in your video can be challenging, so here are a few questions to help you determine what should be included.

What are you making this video for?

What platform/audience is this video for?

What do you want viewers to do after they watch it?

Is the focus of this video you or your business/project? Which is more important to talk about based on what you want viewers to do after?

History

What events or key moments brought you to this point? Why are you doing what you're doing? Why does the business/project exist?

What experience do you have? What have you achieved so far?

Future

Revisiting what you want viewers to do after watching this video, how does that help you or your business? How does it help/benefit them?

What overall goals are you trying to achieve with this video? Including specific details of your goals/projects in your video is a great way to get viewers excited about what's to come, but also remember to keep them from being too short-term. You don't want to have to recreate this video in a month.

Camera Shots and Angles

Shots

Establishing Shot



An Establishing shot establishes what the audience is about to see. It can be a shot that shows a lot of space or it can convey a feeling or mood. It sets the scene so the audience has a sense of where the characters are.

General rule of thumb is that an establishing shot will convey information to your viewers, but you can still be creative with it.



Extreme Long/Wide Shot



An Extreme Long Shot is what it sounds like, a shot that focuses on something far in the distance. It is often used in Establishing Shots to show the world or scene, so viewers know where the story is taking place.

It can also be used to convey a sense of wonder, awe, or that the character feels small in the world.

Long/Wide Shot

A Long or Wide Shot can be used in a similar way as the Extreme Long Shot. If a person is in the shot you'll see them head to toe, plus a little more of the scene around them. It's another shot that can be used as an establishing shot, or it can be used to convey a situation or feeling.

If the focus of the shot is the scene, there may not be a person on screen at all.



Full Shot



A Full Shot shows a person head to toe, but without extra scenery. This shot is generally used to show action in the scene, for example this example shows a person running. While we don't yet know why or what's going to happen, we know what they're doing and have a sense of where they are. The scene is less important, the focus is on the person and their action.

Medium Long Shot (Also 3/4 Shot)

A Medium Long Shot is between Medium and Long Shots, which is why it's also known as a 3/4 Shot. It shows a person from the knees up, or 3/4 of the focus of the shot.

This shot is ideal when the audience needs to focus on what's happening as well as

what's being said or if there's some emotion.



Cowboy Shot (American Shot)



The Cowboy Shot comes from Western films from the 1930s and 1940s, which would frame the subject from mid-thighs up to fit the character's gun holsters into the shot.

It's another in-between shot, that begins to convey emotion while still focusing on the action in a scene.

Medium Shot

Medium Shots are very common in film as this is the point where the focus shifts to a character's face or an object's detail.

When a person is the focus of the shot we usually see them from the waist up. Some scenery is still visible, but it's no longer the focus.



Medium Close Up Shot



A Medium Close Up is focused on the emotion or detail of the subject, often framing a person from the chest or shoulders up.

The closer we get to the subject the more focus on emotion or detail there is, and less on the scene around the subject.

Close Up

A Close Up often frames the face of a person or frames an object that we should focus on. The scene surrounding the subject isn't prominent, and may be out of focus.



Choker Shot



A Choker shot zeros in on a subject's face or the focus of an object. The feeling or emotion of the scene is most important with this shot.

Extreme Close Up

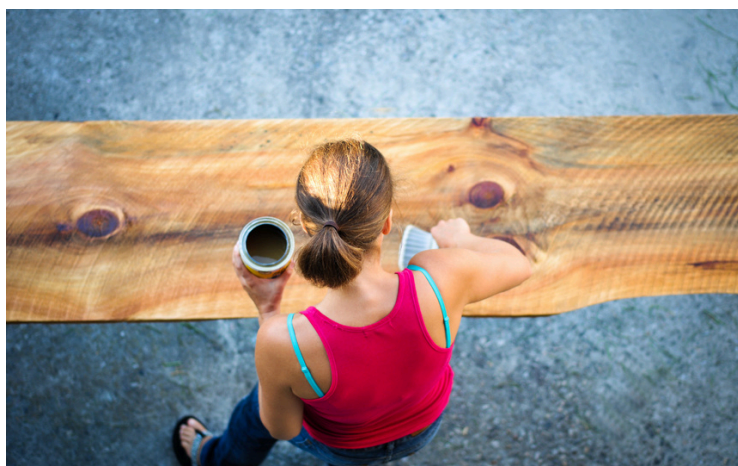
Extreme Close Ups are just what they sound like, a shot that focuses on a specific part of the subject. The surrounding world isn't important in this shot, only the subject.

It can be used to convey extreme or subtle emotion or details. It points to something the audience SHOULD NOT miss.



Camera Angle and Placement

Bird's Eye View



A Bird's Eye View is shot from directly above the subject. You may also be familiar with shots of cities or land, usually filmed with a drone or helicopter. This angle can be used to point out something viewers wouldn't normally notice.

Eye Level

Eye Level is a straight on angle. It's a neutral angle focusing more on what's in the shot rather than creating a feeling.



Low Angle



Filming from a lower angle gives power to the subject. It can create a sense of awe, vastness, or even fear, depending on the shot and subject.

High Angle

High Angles are filmed from above and can be used to present information or see things we wouldn't normally be able to see. Filming from a higher angle is often used when providing examples or teaching.



Tilted/Dutch Angle



Depending on how it's used, a Tilt can create a sense of unease in the viewer. It's often used to represent that something about the scene isn't quite right or normal. It puts the viewer immediately on edge.

Over-the-Shoulder

Over-the-Shoulder shots are used throughout TV and film when multiple characters are interacting. It keeps the focus on one subject without excluding the others, and is often combined with a Reverse Shot when the camera switches from the first shot to about 180 degrees opposite, showing two sides of the same subject or situation.

Over-the-Shoulder also provides a depth of field making the shot more interesting and less flat.



These are just some of the shots and angles that are commonly used. Ultimately, what you do with the camera is up to you. Just remember that you're crafting a story, and shots and angles can help tell that story.

Pro tip! Utilize a shot list to plan and track your progress when filming.