



HS Digital Media Production/ Advanced Digital Media Production

Thursday, May 14, 2020



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Overall Lesson: Video Journalism

Sub lesson for Thursday, May 14: Shooting an Interview

Learning Target:

Students will understand how to setup and frame an interview and the reasons behind each element.



Opening Exercise

- Evaluate interviews
 - Find a couple of interviews to evaluate
 - Look either online or find a news program on television and focus on how the interviews are recorded
 - Look at the framing, listen to the audio, etc.



Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- Interview Setup Guidelines

- Avoid distracting backgrounds/pay attention to what's behind the subject
 - This goes for audio distractions as well (crowded place, intercom, etc.)
- Have earbuds/headphones so you know you're getting sound
 - Audio meters on the camera are helpful, but hearing it tells you the quality of audio you're getting



Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

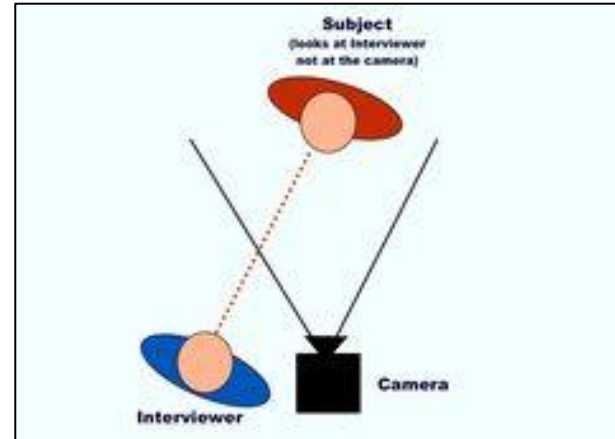
- Interview Setup Guidelines

- Light goes behind the camera and interviewer - not behind the person being interviewed.
 - The subject looking into the light is better than them being in the dark
 - Want the light to hit the subject at an angle - not straight down on them
- Place camera at eye level of subject (regardless of height)
 - *Camera positioned above eye level:* looking down on subject makes them look weak
 - *Camera positioned below eye level:* looking up at subject makes them look strong, authoritative, powerful

Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- Interview Setup Guidelines

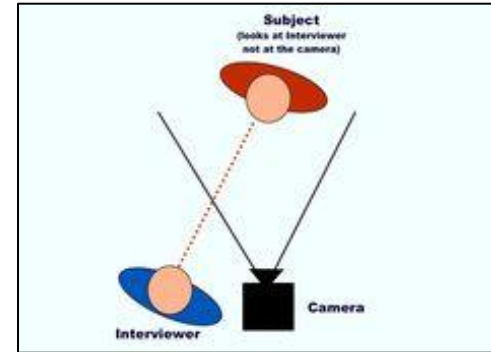
- Be closer than you would think
 - Interviews are conversations. We usually stand fairly close to each other during a normal conversation. Make it more natural and stand Closer.
- Have them look at the reporter/photographer **not** the camera
 - The conversation is not with the camera/viewer. It's with the reporter/photographer



Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- Interview Setup Guidelines

- Always hold the mic yourself!
 - Gives you better control of the quality of the audio.
 - Interview subjects are often nervous and prone to fidgeting, which can mean playing with the mic if they're holding it.



- Utilize the Rule of Thirds

- Frame the subject so they're looking across the shot
- Frame them from about the middle of their chest to the top of their head
- Always make sure you can see **both** of their eyes!





Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- **Basic “to-do” checklist for conducting on camera interviews**
 - When using a camera, tripod & microphone
 - Make sure tripod is level
 - Make sure camera is secure on the tripod
 - Make sure SD card is in the camera (correctly)
 - Make sure microphone cord is plugged into the correct port on the camera
 - Make sure you press record *before* you ask your first question
 - When using just a phone
 - Try to conduct the interview in as quiet of an environment as possible
 - Be closer, so phone mic picks up clean sound
 - Try to brace yourself against something (wall, counter, etc.) to limit camera movement
 - Landscape is best



Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- Ethical Considerations

- The person or people we interview are trusting us to not misrepresent them. There are a couple ways we can do that when setting up for the interview:
 - Be technically sound
 - A crooked camera can make a person look “crooked” and untrustworthy
 - Bad lighting can make person look “shady”
 - Be consistent from interview to interview
 - Make sure all of your interviews look the same, so you don’t appear to be favoring someone or trying to make someone look bad



Video Journalism - Shooting Interviews

- Last, but not least...
 - Turn off/silence all cell phones before the interview (even if you're using your phone to record the interview).
 - It's unprofessional for a phone call or text to interrupt the interview
 - Don't say anything until you're sure the subject is done talking.
 - They might just need a couple seconds to finish piecing together their thought. If you interject, you might miss out on the best thing they were going to say.



Activity

- Keeping in mind the procedures and practices discussed on the previous slides, you're going to interview two members of your family.
 - Come up with *no less than* three questions you can ask each of them that will make them say more than just a couple words
 - If the interview lasts less than 10 seconds, you haven't gotten the opportunity to truly practice setting up, framing and recording.
 - Then, using your phone, interview them!



Additional Resource

- Video: [Basic Cinematography: How To Light An Interview \(3-Point Lighting Tutorial\)](#)