



THE CREW VIDEO LESSONS

LESSON 3: GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY VIDEO SHOOTING.

AIM: This lesson develops a list of guidelines and principles for good shooting.

GEAR REQUIRED: Several cameras, quality videotape, VCRs for playback.

The teacher should be able to find example from the video shot by students in the previous lesson that will illustrate several of the points made below.

INTRO: As previously stated, shooting good video is a matter of practice. There is no absolutely right or wrong way to do it. The techniques and style an operator employs will depend on what message they are trying to convey, who the audience is that they are trying to reach and the context in which they are trying to communicate. If you are shooting a news story for example, your shots will be different to those that you would use in the production of a rock music clip.

Having said that however there are definitely some guides that help ensure quality. Some of the most basic ones are listed below.

GENERAL RULES FOR SHOOTING

1) The most basic rule is think about your shot. What do you want to include in the frame. Don't include anything that is not relevant to the purpose of your shot.

2) Frame your shot carefully. Try to get a sense of balance. This may not always be what you are after however understanding and experimenting with balance is the key to understanding how to unbalance and develop a shot if you need to.

3) Decide what you are going to shoot **BEFORE** you press 'record'.

4) Start rolling the tape before you need to and keep rolling around 5 seconds at the end of the shot. This helps greatly in editing.

5) Each take should be at least 10 seconds long.

6) Steady yourself against the wobbles. Adopt a steady stance; brace yourself on a tree, a pole, a wall, the ground etc. where possible.

7) Steady the shot by widening the lens angle ('w') on the zoom control where possible. If you need a closer shot move toward your subject rather than zooming in.

8) Don't over do the use of the zoom control.

9) Explore your subject, the light, the background and the angle, to obtain the optimum shot BEFORE you press 'record'.

10) Set up the camera for the lighting conditions. White balance, indoor, outdoor, filters, gain, what ever is applicable to your camera. If in doubt read the manual.

11) Avoid shooting your subject against a bright background like a sun set or bright sky, it will silhouette your foreground. (unless that is what you are after)

12) Have someone else keep an eye on your safety.

13) Enjoy yourself !!!!!!! Remember practice makes perfect.

ACTIVITY

1) Divide into small groups again.

2) Each group will take the camera out into the school ground and record around 1 min of video per student. This time being careful to apply the above principles.

3) On return to the classroom / studio look at each others work and see if you can identify what principles are being applied by the camera operator.

REMEMBER Constructive criticism is a good thing if it is given in humility. If you are going to criticize someone's work give them two good comments first. Creativity is a bit like snail eyes, scare it and it will quickly run and hide.