

VIDEO RECORDING WITH A SMARTPHONE

Do's & Don'ts for video recording

Planning

- Block enough time for your recording session
- Decide on your backdrop
- Charge battery - Bring power adapter / charger
- Correspond with interviewees regarding video release and clothing to avoid
- Send a copy of question to interviewee in advance of the interview

Things to tell interviewee

- Dress appropriately. Some tips: don't wear stripes, or a turtleneck, or bright colors, or a white top. Pastel or other light colored clothing look best on tape. Leave noisy jewelry off, and keep jewelry small and simple.
- When recording, keep your body movements to a minimum to avoid distracting the viewer.
- Speak clearly, enunciate.
- Sign a release form authorizing participation to create audio-visual recording.

For Interview Recording

- Familiarize yourself with the questions you plan to ask
- Location:
 - Avoid windows or direct sunlight in camera view
 - Avoid noisy machines, humming lights (if possible)
 - Minimize interruptions (close doors? put up a "RECORDING" sign)
- Framing:
 - Camera at eye level (think of camera as YOUR eyes looking at subject)
 - Subject framed off center, looks across center at interviewer (not at camera)
 - Leave ~5% headroom.
 - Check what's behind subject - "Anything sticking out of their head?"
- Lighting: some shadows are good, but direct sunlight is not good behind the subject
- Check memory for recording time available
- Interviewer:
 - Speak clearly & quietly, enunciate - Your voice is recorded louder than interviewee
 - Refrain from making any noises such as acknowledgement, etc. Being close to the microphone, your noises will be much louder than speech from the interviewee
 - Don't interrupt, or cut in. Allow interviewee to complete sentence. Instead wait for an opening in the conversation before asking your next question
 - Pause for a few secs after interviewee is done with answering before proceeding to the next question
 - Log your good and bad takes for a better editing experience

iPhone Video Recording Apps

- Camera (Apple's built in still and video recorder)
- [Camera Plus Pro](#) (\$2 advanced recording features, considered essential app)
- [Professional Camera](#) (\$2 exceptional features, early version)
- [ProCamera](#) (\$3 best alternative to the essential app)

Android Video Recording Apps

- Spy Video Recorder (free)
- Spy Video Recorder Pro (\$1.50)
- Secret Video Recorder (free-5 star CNET review)
- Secret Video Recorder Pro (\$9-5 star CNET review)
- Video Recorder / Video Camera (free-2.8 stars review)
- XC Spy Video Recorder (\$1.36-4 star review)

B-Roll

- If an edited version is needed, be sure to shoot supporting activities and images that can be cut away to between primary clips and which help tell the story.
- Keep your smartphone (or your body) steady against a stationary object (e.g. wall) when shooting. (see steadicam-like devices)