



CAMERA TIPS

(esp. for those new to filming and/or using a cell phone)

*** Credit for some of these goes to <http://editmate.co/video/>. Check out their site for other useful tips.

Camera

RESOLUTION: Use the best camera you have, at the best resolution you can manage. Go with at least 720 if you're short on memory, but 1080 is a better bet if possible.

MEMORY: How much memory is available on your phone? Do you have a 16 GB or 128 GB phone? If your storage is smaller, delete excess media (old videos, music, photos) to clear out space. You don't want to run out in the middle of filming.

BATTERY: Make sure you have a fully charged battery.

Audio: *This is important! If the recording isn't clear or loud enough, it will be difficult to use.*

KEEP CAMERA CLOSE: Hold phone camera an arms-length or closer from subject during an interview (for clarity of audio)

AVOID NOISY SETTINGS: Try to avoid settings with high background noise (eg traffic, loud conversations, machinery). If necessary, conduct the interview in a quiet indoor setting, and then afterwards take more interesting visual footage of the interviewee and environment that can be overlaid on the audio.

USE A SEPARATE MIC: If you have an external microphone, great. If not, consider using a second smart phone that you can position close to the interviewee to collect the audio. For that you can just use the phone's audio recording app (eg Voice Memos) and it can be matched with the video later.

Visuals

ALWAYS SHOOT HORIZONTAL!!: Hold your phone horizontal position when filming. Footage taken vertical position won't be usable.

LIGHTING: If you aren't in great natural light, you will need a light source. Also, you don't want the interviewee to be backlit. If there is a strong light source, stand between the light and the interviewee.

STABILISE: No one likes shaky video. Check your image stabilisation settings and consider using a tripod or securely propping the phone on a table or other surface.

RESOLUTION: Know which resolution you plan to shoot in.

CATCH THE ATMOSPHERE: Before or after interview, get a wide shot of the environment, as well as close ups of interesting details (signs, children playing, broken window, pretty tree). Make a note of things mentioned in the interview (such as a family member, a certain room, etc) that you can get footage of afterwards. Move around - don't just take static shots.