

TECHNIQUES FOR SHOOTING VIDEO

BEFORE YOU GO OUT

- 1). Know your gear. Be familiar with every button. Have batteries. Have extra batteries.
- 2). Create a shot list. Don't limit yourself to what you write down, but plan ahead.
- 3). Arrive early. Know the place where you're shooting. Don't just get there on time.

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Bill Gentile's 5-shot Formula

No matter what scene you're recording, you need at least these five kinds of shot to make it work:

- 1). Wide shot (get the scene)
- 2). Medium shot (get the action)
- 3). Close-up/hands (get the detail shot)
- 4). Close-up/face (identify the person)
- 5). Reverse angle/shoot over the shoulder for variety/different perspective

Once you get the basics above, you can stretch for shots like this:

- 1). Overhead
- 2). Reaction shots (remember if you get action, there's reaction)
- 3). Extreme close-ups
- 4). Pans, zooms, tilts (but use sparingly and ONLY when you actually have a reason)

A simpler formula

No matter what you're using, you need a variety of shots and angles to tell the story. If you simply record a rolling sequence of these shots, you'll also gather enough to tell the story.

Super-wide; Wide; Medium; Tight; Super-tight

Still more to know

- 1). Let people/objects/motion move through the shot and "clear" the scene.
- 2). Compose shots using the Rule of Thirds.
- 3). Use a tripod or steady yourself and the camera with whatever is available.
- 4). Compose your shots and let the action happen. Anticipate action.
- 5). Follow the 10-second-minimum per shot rule.
- 6). Identify the direction of light and locations of trees/poles.
- 7). Look for illustrative video, moments, small action.
- 8). Keep quiet and let the action/moment/interview happen.
- 9). Identify recurring sounds/images and record at least 5 occurrences/angles.
- 10). Look for characters and storytelling moments.