



How to Shoot ... a Great Short Film/Video

Here are some of the fundamentals:

Rule #1 - Keep on testing

ALWAYS do a short test video before recording the scene. If you have more than one camera, even better ... so you can check everything out from different angles. If in doubt, *keep testing!*

Use a good camera

It's pretty obvious, isn't it. The better the camera, the better the end result. Use an 8 megapixel phone camera or better to get the job done satisfactorily.

Pick a good location

Unless your video calls for something different, it is super important to shoot on a location with excellent lighting. Consider the obvious locations: outside; a room with lots of windows; a room with several lights.

Avoid rooms that are dark and shadowy and have only one light source.

Angles are important

Unless there is a big height difference between you and your subject(s) you will probably position your camera at or above the height of your shoulders.

When filming a stationary scene, the individual's shoulders will be near the middle of the shot with their waist or below near the bottom.

Speak clearly

Bad sound quality will drive your viewers crazy. Not a good idea!

If you are doing the talking, then make sure you know what you're talking about.

Write a script. Create bullet points. Memorize it.

Practice recording to learn how you sound on video and to get the best sound level. Notice where you stutter and look for distracting mannerisms. Practice, practice, practice.

Look like you're having fun.

If it's just you, act like you're enjoying a conversation with someone. Even if you are facing the camera, use limited hand gestures and shift your weight. Change the tone of your voice as you cover different points.

Your face must be expressive and reflect the point you are making. Smile and/or look serious when appropriate. Think of the camera as a human being that you are conversing with.

Editing your video on YouTube.

If you have used a phone, then upload it to YouTube. You will need a Google or Gmail account to upload. If you don't have one, it is free and easy to sign up.

You can choose to make the videos private or public depending on whether or not you want to keep share them.

For best results use the Google Chrome browser. Log into your YouTube account and select from the videos you have uploaded. You can learn how to edit at ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43Nvd12yqxU>.

Make short clips

Change your shot every 3-10 seconds. This is very important. Viewers don't want to stare at the same scene for very long. You can also use this to your advantage in the editing process when you need to cut errors and boring scenes. If in doubt, break it up into small pieces.

Keep transitions simple

Use the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) principle. There are many cool transitions out there. They may be fun to play with but don't use them. They will probably make your video look really amateurish. If you are going to use transitions, stick with ones like ... fade to black; fade to white; wipe; cross fade; cross blur.

The acid test

As you near the end you may wish to make adjustments for lighting and sound, etc. Check out the available options but, once again, keep it simple. Only change what is absolutely necessary.

The acid test

Here comes the scary part! When you are ready, show it to friends and family who care about you. They will be kind as they view and critique what you have done. Guaranteed ... this will be uncomfortable in the beginning but, as you progress, it will feed the learning process which will transition you into a great film-maker.

Publish

When you're ready, upload your video and relax. Congratulations!

Contact

We are always delighted to help in any way possible.

Email: Support@3MinuteFestivals.com
Website: www.3MinuteFestivals.com