

Two Camera Video Interview

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Setting up Two Camera Interview

- Main Camera
 - A-Roll
 - Wide establishing shot (usually from waist up)
 - Interviewee should not look directly into the lens or be in the center of the frame
 - Interviewer will sit/stand next to the main camera at eye level with interviewee
 - Main camera lens will be lined up at eye level
- Second Camera
 - B-Roll
 - Close up shot - to the left or right of main camera
 - Can also move the camera to show close up of hands, other gestures

Lighting

- Lighting for Indoor Interviews
 - If shooting indoors, try to use a window for a main light source
 - Avoid overhead fluorescent lights if at all possible
 - Avoid brightly lit backgrounds
 - If all else fails you can use a floor lamp and a white reflector
 - Check for “hot spots” on (bald) heads, face, nose, forehead
- Lighting for Outdoor Interviews
 - Avoid direct sunlight during the day (noon time hours)
 - Avoid bright skies in the background
 - Shade is fine as long as there are no “hot spots” (remember the sun’s position will change during the time of the interview)



Audio

- Audio for Indoor Interviews
 - Be aware of ambient noises/sounds
 - Make sure you record at least 30 seconds of room tone
- Audio for Outdoor Interviews
 - More difficult to obtain good sound (non-controlled environment)
 - Wind considerations
 - Traffic sounds, construction, etc.
 - Make sure you record at least 30 seconds of ambient sound

Audio & Equipment

- Lavalier Mic
 - Be aware of mic rubbing on clothing, hair, jewelry, etc.
- Shotgun Mic
- Zoom audio recorder
- Headset (closed)
- Always use a loud clap when starting the recording to make editing easier
- ALWAYS test audio ahead of time and make sure levels are acceptable

Camera Equipment/Settings

- For a 2 camera interview, both cameras should be the same and with most of the same settings
- DSLR Basic Manual Settings:
 - Set focus to manual
 - Set white balance according to location lighting (shade, cloudy, sun, fluorescent, etc)
 - Set frame rate to 24
 - Set resolution to 1080 (1920 x1080)
 - Set picture control to Standard (if available)
 - Color space: Adobe RGB
 - ISO: this will depend on available lighting. The lower the number, the better (less noise)
 - Shutter speed: rule of thumb 2x Frame Rate (24fps x 2=48) closest will be 50
 - Aperture: depends on focal length of lens, available light and desired depth of field (smaller number means more blur in the background/higher number means sharper background)

Other Tips

- If possible, scope out the location before the interview so you know what to expect with sound, lighting, etc.
- Make sure you pause for a few seconds before asking the next question and also ask the interviewer to pause a few seconds before answering questions.
- Be aware that DSLR cameras have a video recording limit around the 12-20 minute mark (and/or if the SD card reaches 4GB file size). Pay close attention to this and make sure you hit the record button again when it stops without warning.
- Get plenty of B roll before or after your main interview. Ideally it would be related to your subject's field of study or background. Pre-visualize the story you want to tell.
- Use "Rule of Thirds"
- Make sure you ask your subject to answer your questions by starting their answer with part of the question (i.e. "My name is...", "My research focuses on...", "I am concerned because...").

More Tips

- Make sure batteries are fully charged!
- Leave room for graphics.
- Format the memory card in the camera before your shoot.
- Offload the footage ASAP onto TWO backup drives.
- Use expanded focus (if available).
- You can google “creative commons” for free to use footage or images.
- Anything provided by NASA is free to use (NASA’s YouTube channel is a good resource).
- Bring water and snack
- Turn off cell phones during the shoot!
- Be careful not to bump the tripod during recording and watch for cables bumping it as well.
- Audio levels on camera should not reach the 0db mark. Keep around 12db. You can adjust by raising or lowering the record level.



Questions?