

TIPS FOR FILMING VIDEOS

NDSU

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Whether you are filming a lecture for your class or a video for YouTube, there are some strategies you can use to ensure your video is of good quality. A video of good quality makes it easier for the viewer to receive your message.

Here are a few tips to ensure your video is of good quality.

Plan your video in advance

Planning your video in advance provides numerous advantages in terms of quality. The most important reason is that it decreases the amount of time spent filming and editing your video.

Follow a script

Write a script before recording, the script entails what you will talk about in the video. The video needs to be short, concise and to the point. So, write your script keeping that in mind.

Use good lighting

Preferably record in a shady area that will give a softer light. Avoid overhead lighting because that will cause harsh shadows on the subject's face.

Use a clean background

An easy way to do this is to have a solid-colored background like a blank wall. If you do not have or do not want to use a clean background, be sure to check that background elements in the camera frame are representative of the message you want to send and are not distracting.

Film with minimal background noise

Depending on the microphone sensitivity, lots of times microphones will record random noises like a fan, traffic, or background conversations. Record in a place free from those background noises.

Have good audio recording device

Borrow a microphone if needed and connect it to the camera. The Office of Teaching and Learning has microphones available to borrow.

Avoid shaky footage

It is not possible to have the camera handheld and not have shaky footage. It is best to use a tripod or set up a camera on a flat surface so your footage looks professional. The Office of Teaching and Learning has a tripod available to borrow.

Record with the best quality

Minimum quality should be 1080 pixels (px) at 30 frames per second (fps). Check your camera or phone to ensure it is recording at these settings. If you are using a phone to record be sure you have it set up horizontally rather than vertically.

Appear natural in front of the camera

Try to appear as natural as possible. Use open body language. Maintain good posture. Keep your shoulders relaxed. Avoid crossing your arms since this makes you look closed-off.

Speak slower

Individuals have a tendency to speak faster when they are on camera or in front of a crowd. Before you begin speaking pause and remind yourself to speak slower and enunciate tricky words.

Make sure to smile

A smile, especially at the beginning of the video, offers a sense of warmth and appears welcoming.

Look at the lens

Be sure to look at the lens of your camera or the general direction of the camera on your computer this is how your eyes will connect with your viewers eyes. If recording from your computer, it may help to tape a photo of a person near the lens.

For more information or assistance, contact:

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