

## Smartphilm Tips

**Airplane mode on**

**Assess the location first**

**Focus**

**Exposure**

**White Balance**

**Stabilize the camera**

**Compose your shots**

**Pan slowly or swish**

**Cover your scene**

**Move around**

**Get good sound**

**Monitor sound**

**Film more**

**Count**

**Say “please” and “thank you” to team and subjects**

**Ask permission to film**

### Setup

- Charge your battery and use a separate battery pack if needed
- Determine vertical, square or horizontal format (some folks shoot H and crop for V and S) and stick to it
- Get rid of apps and media that you don't need for the shoot
- Clean lens(es)
- If possible, shoot 4k (if you have the space). That provides zooms and crops in post. Stick to a specific frame rate (for our course 30fps), except if you're shooting slow motion (slomo)
- If possible, shoot at the highest quality (bit rate) that you can
- Turn on Airplane Mode
- Clean your camera lens(es)

### Filming

- Concentrate on holding the camera steady even if you're not moving. Lean against a wall, use a table or chair back or use a backpack or jacket on the ground

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- Check for distractions in the frame, especially at the perimeter of the frame
- Check manual focus and exposure (slightly underexpose video) or if using native camera app, use auto lock AE/AF
- Slow movement (pan, tilt) down
- Don't zoom unless you have two lenses and you can do an optical zoom
- If you are trying to do a walking or traveling shot, slow down and pretend you're holding a full class of your favorite beverage
- For static (not moving) shots, count to at least 10 before you stop filming (I still do this after 48 years of making films)
- The best place to film may not be where your head is. Think creatively for different angles.
- Don't take just shot. If you have the chance explore your world. MOVE AROUND
- Be like a coyote: When you're leaving the scene or a location, look over your shoulder just make sure that you got everything that you needed for the scene
- Build scenes with your shots: What's your beginning, middle and end? Even if you don't know for sure, try to figure it out.
- Wide shots are necessary for location, space. Tighter shots usually make up the bulk of your scenes, so get close and closer still!
- Avoid filming in high contrast locations. Change angle or frame to help. Don't film up against white walls or bright windows in the background
- Use fill to add light or negative fill to take-away light on your subject
- Make sure that eyes aren't too dark in shadows
- Get as good sound as you can. Pay close attention to the sound environment. We filter noise out, but the camera can't. If at all possible use an external mic and in wind a softie. Otherwise get close to the source of the sound as you can. Sometimes use two phones, one for image the other for sound (just out of frame)
- Monitor sound whenever possible. Filmic Pro allows Bluetooth monitoring. Use in-ear or headphones not buds (they let in too much outside sound). Don't use noise-cancelling headphones.
- Don't step on the person's answer with another question. Let the person wait a moment before answering so that they don't step on your question
- Listen like an editor or a viewer, not as the director or filmmaker. Is this making sense? Do we need to redo?
- Do a test recording before filming and playback for image and sound. Use headphones (with Filmic Pro you can listen with Bluetooth earphones)
- Ask the person for permission and get them to agree to being filmed on camera. Get some kind of contact information for followup and written permission if necessary

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- Have fun!