Video Recording Basics
Planning a Video Project & Using a Digital Video Camera

Digital Media Design Studio
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3 Stages of Video Production

1. Pre-production Stage:
   Plan out the project first!

2. Production Stage:
   Start capturing and gathering video footage!

3. Post-production Stage:
   Combine all footage into one great video!
Storyboards & Scripts

Planning is the most important step! The ability to plan videos is a skill that takes time to develop, and you really need to gain experience in the production and post-production stages before you will become good at pre-production planning. You can get started by planning a few basics such as:

- The approximate length of the final video and how many shots you will need to achieve this.
- What music or other sounds will be added to the video.
- A script or storyboard.
- What medium and format the final video will be shown in.
Our Video Camera

» Panasonic PV-GS500 Digital Camcorder
» 3CCD (Charge-Coupled-Device)
Video Camera

» Power
  - Battery (can be recharged)
  - Power cord

» Storage
  - MiniDV Tape (60-90 mins. capacity per tape)
  - SanDisk memory card (3 hrs. on 4 GB card)
Video Camera

» Holding the camera
» Mounting the camera on a tripod
Video Camera

» Viewfinder / Pull-out LCD monitor
» Camera mode dial
» Zoom in/out
  ▪ (T = tight  W = wide)
» Record button
» Menu Button
» Joystick
Manual Controls vs. Automatic

» To be in complete control, switch camera into manual mode. This allows for complete control over focus, white balance, and brightness settings.

» Automatic mode is adequate for quick shots with little time for preparation or setting up the shot.
Focus

» Auto Focus
» Manual Focus

You can't always rely on auto focus.
It can't always figure out what you want in focus.
Focus

» Manual Focus
1. While in auto-focus mode, zoom in on subject.
2. When subject is in focus, switch to manual focus mode.
3. Zoom out. Subject should now be in focus.
Focus

Manual Focus (especially for sports)

1. While in manual focus mode, zoom in on a distant part of the scene, such as the ads and logos on the sidelines of the court or field.

2. Adjust manual focus wheel(s) until in focus.

3. Stay in manual focus mode and zoom out. Now, the camera will not auto-focus on athletes crossing in front of the distant part of the scene.
White Balance

» Different preset settings:
  • Auto (AWB)
  • Incandescent
  • Daylight
  • Custom setting
White Balance

» Custom settings:
1. Place a piece of white paper or a plain white surface somewhere in the lighting of the scene.
2. Zoom in until the screen is completely filled with white.
3. Hold the white balance button until the screen changes to show white as pure white in this lighting.

For more dramatic effects:
White balance to different colors to achieve different effects.
For example, if a blue surface is set to pure white, the scene has a red glow. Use a red surface for a blue glow.
Brightness

» Iris + (brighter) / Iris - (dimmer)
» ND Filter (neutral density)
Lighting

» Light should be pointed at subject from front or slightly above.

In front of a bright window, subject’s face is very dark and shadowy.
Lighting

» Direct lighting can result in “shiny” faces.

Light pointed directly at face  Light off-center and from above
Shots and Angles

» Shot Composition:
  - Find a way to emphasize your main subject:
    » Shoot from various angles; even one step to one side might make the scene more interesting.
    » Walk around, study your surroundings, and try something different every time.
Shots and Angles

» Rule of thirds

When the subject is directly in the center of the screen, you create static shots.

Put subject at points a third of the way down or into a frame for more dynamic shots.
Framing

Bad
Too much space on the wrong side.

Better
Leave space on one side, the direction that the subject is looking.

Looking out of frame
Framing

Too much to one side
Framing

head cut off
Framing

Too much headroom
Framing

Camera too low
Framing

Unless speaking directly to the audience, a person should look off-screen, away from the camera, as if looking towards somebody else in the room who is asking interview questions.

Subject in the middle looks awkward
Framing

NICE

Even Better!
Shots and Angles

» Use a variety of shots and angles for a more interesting video project.
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Shots and Angles

» Lead room shows where the subject is going
Shots and Angles

» Lead room is especially important in sports

Without lead room, viewers wouldn't know that another player is right in front of the athlete with the puck until the two players suddenly met onscreen.
Shots and Angles

» Horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines

Horizontal and vertical lines create boring shots.
Frame the shot with diagonal lines for a more interesting shot.
More Information

» See these great resources to learn more about video project planning, camera techniques, and shot composition:

- The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video by Tom Schroeppe

- http://www.mediacollege.com/

- http://www.video101course.com/

- http://www.cybercollege.com/
Have Fun Filming!

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