

# Interview Project

## Video footage due at beginning of next class

**Interview video assignment:** The focus of this project is to:

- 1) Gain hands on experience with technical interview skills including camera angles and composition, audio with a lavalier mic, and working with available lighting
- 2) Develop confidence interviewing subjects
- 3) Produce questions and work with subjects to get quality engaging content
- 4) Continue building skills for collaborating as a team

As a team, you will produce a 30-90 second video for the web that highlights a relevant topic that will generate social media interest. Bring the video camera to next class with the interview footage and we will begin editing in class.

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1. In class, as a team, review your individual preproduction worksheets and combine the best ideas.
2. In class, complete the new pre-production worksheet as a team to plan your locations, subjects, times, and questions.
3. Over the next two weeks, conduct at least 12 interviews using the following guidelines
  - a. Use the **tripod** and make sure your shot is steady and well framed. Make sure you are using the **lav mic** and that you are monitoring it for extra noise using headphones. Use the tips on the back for effective interviewing.
  - b. **Interview at LEAST 20 people.** You need to have 12 quality interviews. If there is one you do not like the lighting, audio, or the answer isn't useful, then do another one so that you have twelve that are great. Make sure your interview is concise and has good energy.
  - c. For each person, ask them a few intro questions first off camera so they are familiar with the topic and you can tailor your question if needed. On camera, they should just be answering one question (as decided by your group). The question needs to set them up to answer in a complete sentence, and you may need to have them repeat their answer if it isn't clear the first time. You can also have them repeat to get a good take that is short, with high energy and no mumbles. Don't be afraid to laugh and have fun between shots to keep your subject relaxed.
  - d. Have your subjects in a location that makes sense for the topic so the background is relevant to the person or the topic. If the background is interesting and relevant, then shoot more medium or wide, if the area is not as interesting, then shoot more close or extreme close up.
    - i. **Close-up** or **extreme-close-up** (from above eyebrows to just below chin, or even closer, such as just eyes or lips)
    - ii. **Medium** or **wide shot** (just below shoulders to top of head, or just below elbow to top of head)
  - e. Have half of your subjects looking slightly left, and half looking slightly right, to do this, make sure the person asking the questions switches which side of the camera they are on. The person asking questions should be standing right next to the camera and it should be at their eye level. Or you subjects can look directly at the camera (but not back and forth).
  - f. For every person you interview, write down their name and email address so you have a record.

# Tips for great interviews

## Tips for good audio:

- Use headphones to monitor the audio for extra sounds (touching the mic cable etc)
- Choose a quiet location for the interview
- Pause if something loud happens briefly (airplane, loud students) and wait until it is quiet again
- Position the mic as close as possible to the student's mouth, but out of sight as demonstrated in class
- When you are interviewing, make sure your voice is confident and energetic, so your subject will reflect that same attitude
- Don't be afraid to ask someone to say something again, or shorter
- When the subject is speaking, you have to be quiet. Nod your head and smile in agreement, but do not respond vocally while they are speaking (which can be hard)

## Tips for effective formal interview composition:

- Each shot should be composed using the rule of thirds or should fill the screen
- The subject should be looking just to the side (but still see both eyes), or directly at the camera
- Choose an appropriate background e.g. a biology major in a lab, a student in the library etc.
- Make sure your camera is level with your subject's eyes
- Avoid shooting into a window
- Avoid shooting right up against a wall
- Make sure the room or location is well lit

