

Smart Phone Shooting Tips/Tricks



1. Prep your phone

- Make sure that your battery is fully charged.
- Go into Airplane Mode.
- Keep Wi-Fi and Bluetooth off.
- Keep background activity off.
- Close your lens.
- Get rid of extra media and apps.
- Decide on GPS.
- Test sound and image before you start filming.

2. Lock autofocus and autoexposure

- If your camera allows for locking focus and exposure (AE/AF), select an appropriate brightness and camera subject distance.
- Apps like F5 Pro and MoovePro allow AE, AF, and AWB locks.
- Remember that smartphones control exposure through shutter speed and ISO only. No f-stop control.

3. Stabilize the camera

- Use a small tripod or rest the phone on or up against something.
- There are handles and stabilizers available.
- Newer phones/tablets have stabilization built in, make sure it's on.
- Stabilization within apps (Filmic Pro) can lead to hitches in recordings. Likewise with iMovie built into post production software (PC/Mac or Premier).

4. Pan or tilt slowly or very fast (swish)

- Many cameras can't keep up with movement.
- Stay as wide an angle as you can get (don't zoom and move).
- In fact, DON'T zoom in if at all possible; digital zoom degrades the image.
- If you're shooting at 24p or 25p, slow down on pans and tilts to minimize chatter.
- Oh, don't forget to shoot **HORIZONTAL**!
- Is there a case for vertical video?
- Visual chatter or stuttering of moving image is caused by high shutter speeds.

5. Get good sound

- Smartphones usually don't allow you to monitor sound or set levels. **SHOOT A TEST & PLAYBACK LISTEN WITH EARRPHONES!**
- Consider an external microphone (plugs into your headphone jack - need maybe not with the iPhone 7 on the way).
- Get close to sound source; eliminate extraneous sound.
- Consider using a second phone for audio.
- **WIND** is deadly; get a sockie for an external mic and try to block wind on phone mic.

8. Shoot with intention

- Think about what you are filming.
- Also, most importantly, **WHY?**
- Don't frame your subjects in action in the frame. Unless that is your intent. Use the size of their intent.
- Coverage: break action into fragments, mainly CU and MS, a few LS and TLS and BCU.
- Change angle on subject during coverage.
- Try to frame filming subjects in front of windows or bright background.
- Try to separate subject from the background as much as you can.

7. Shoot for Editing (even if you don't know how you will edit it)

- Allow subjects to enter and leave the frame.
- Create entry and exit points with camera movement.
- Create entry.
- Hold and hold.
- Exit frame and let go.
- Don't use small close-ups when trying to get the shot you need. Why give a second guess that can't play now. Don't sweat. They won't have time to make you look like an idiot.

6. Fragment your world

- Visual storytelling is all about pieces of the puzzle.
- Intensity and compress real world.
- Many shots and hold them (Count to ten at least).
- 30° rule.
- 20mm/30° rule.



After all that, you're ready to shoot! Or are you? Be deliberate and thoughtful in your approach. Don't just shoot carelessly.

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7. Shoot for Editing (even if you don't know how you will edit it)

- Allow subjects to enter and leave the frame.
- Create entry and exit points with camera movement.
- Create reveals.
- A Roll and a Tilt.
- Cut Away and Cut In.
- Take your time! Hold your shots longer than you think you must. Vary your movement speed. Shoot everything more than once. You never ever have as much as you think you do.

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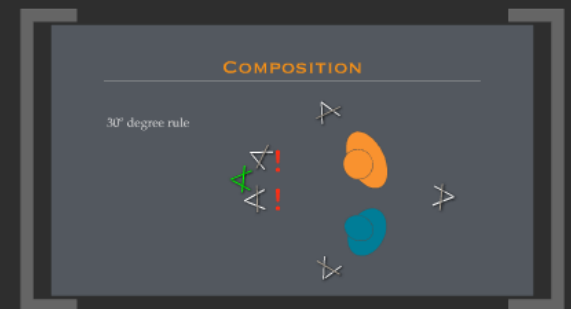
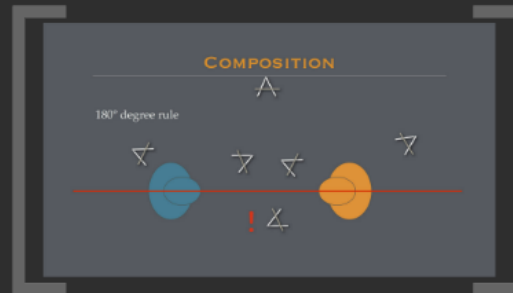
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6. *Fragment your world*

- Visual storytelling is all about pieces of the puzzle.
- Intensify and compress real world.
- Vary shots and hold them! (Count to ten at least.)
- 180° rule
- 20mm/30° rule



COMPOSITION

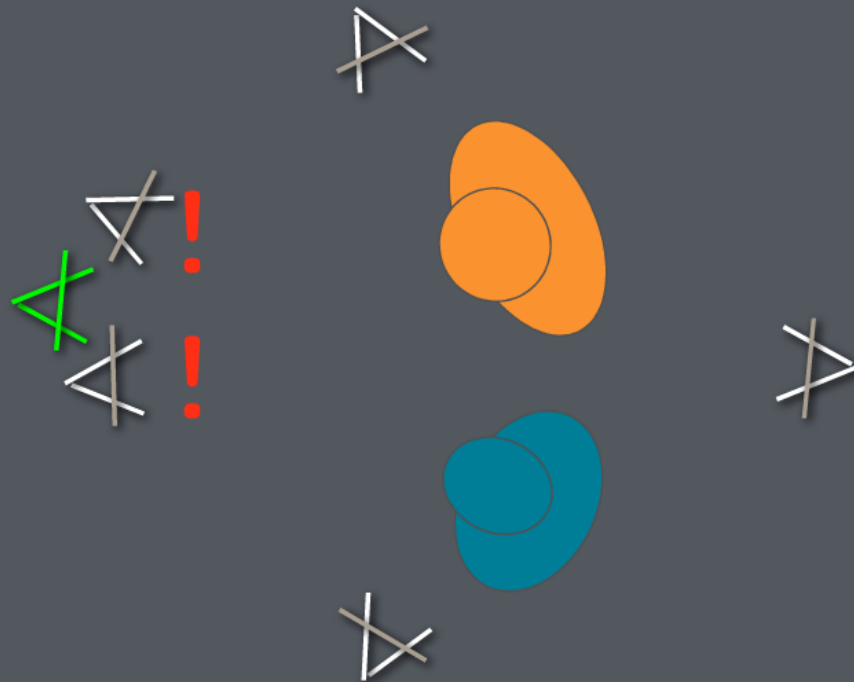


180° degree rule



COMPOSITION

30° degree rule



7.Shoot for Editing (even if you don't know how you will edit it)

- Allow subjects to enter and leave the frame.
- Create exits and entrances with camera movement.
- Create reveals.
- A Roll and B Roll
- Cut Aways and Cut Ins
- Take your time!!! Hold your shots longer than you think you must. Vary your movement speed. Shoot everything more than once. You never ever have as much as you think you do.

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Quick Composition Note

Rule of Thirds

Way to break down the screen into "thirds" leading to a tic tac toe approach to organizing the screen.

There is often more tension or energy when a subject is off center, either horizontally or vertically.

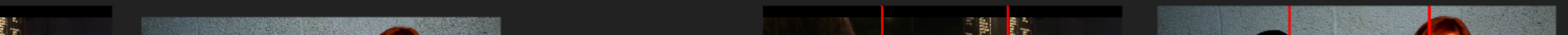
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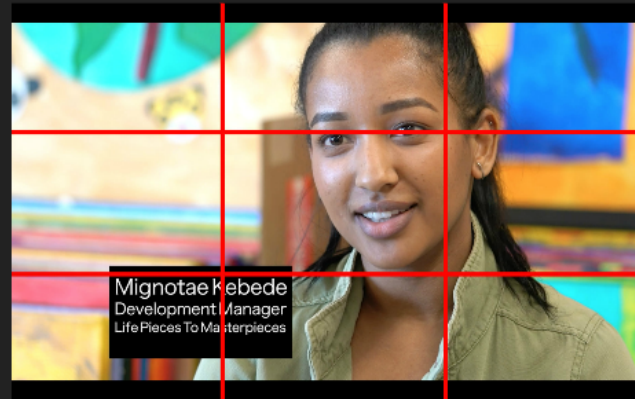
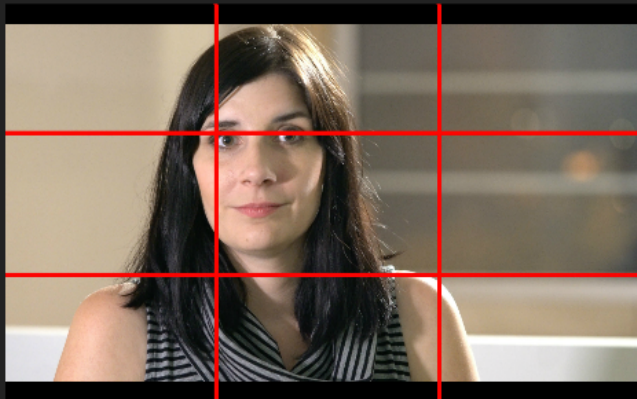
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