

RECORDING FROM HOME: 10 QUICK TIPS FOR VIDEO & AUDIO



1

YOUR PHONE IS BEST

If you have an iPhone or an Android phone they have excellent cameras, so if you're able, use a smartphone.

2

LANDSCAPE IS GREAT

Turn your camera 90 degrees to record in landscape mode. Make sure you can position phone/camera so that it's close to eye-level.



3

FRIENDS ARE GREAT!

If you have someone that can record for you, that's even better. The rear cameras on most smartphones are substantially better in all types of shooting situations, so if you're able, have someone help you out and record your video using your rear facing camera. BUT don't let them hold it, stabilize it with a tripod or lean it against something stable.



4

USE THE LENS

If you're using the selfie camera it's generally dead center at the top of your phone. If you're using the rear camera there may be more than one, ask your friend to let you know which one you should be looking into. And don't forget to pretend you're speaking with us directly. If it helps, imagine you're talking to all of us, or even better, a close friend.



5

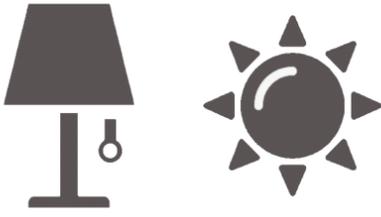
ARE YOU IN AN ECHO CHAMBER

Rooms that are echoey are not great for audio. Rooms with tile floors are to be avoided if possible and spaces without much furniture aren't great either. Feel free to test it out beforehand so you know how the room you're in sounds.



6

CHECK YOUR LIGHT SOURCE



Natural light tends to have a warmer “feel” than many artificial light sources, but make sure the sun is NOT in your eyes. If it’s nighttime, look for a light source that’s diffuse (a lamp with a shade ideally - ideally not florescent blue light). Position it behind your phone so that your face is illuminated without shadows and glare. If the light source is too bright, consider using a scarf or some sort of thin fabric to soften it but make sure that fabric isn’t adding a color to your face. Most importantly try not to be backlit (have a bright light behind you) as you’ll appear as a shadow and the image will be difficult to use.

7

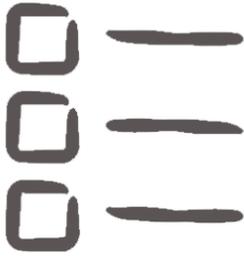
WHAT’S THAT BEHIND YOU?

Take a moment to assess the space. Check your frame. What’s behind you? If there’s a pile of random items, make sure you get them out of frame. If the space behind you is a blank white wall, hang a picture if you’re able, (landscape is preferable to portrait). A bookshelf - as long as it’s not overflowing with nicknacks and the books are arranged in an orderly fashion - also works. Test by sitting or standing where you’ll be and make sure there are no objects that appear to be hovering over or jutting out of your head. You want the audience focused on your message, not the flower that appears to be growing out of your ear.

**8**

PLAN & PRACTICE

It can be helpful to write out what you’d like to say in outline form, bullet points, or on cards. Practice out-loud a few times, you can even record and watch yourself if that helps. BUT be mindful that the best video of you is going to be the one where you’re connecting with us through the camera not the one where you’re reading off of a script or trying to remember your outline. We want to feel like you’re speaking directly to us.

**9**

FLUBS OR ERRORS

If you have a small mess up, flub, word jumble, etc it’s generally okay to go back and start over by picking up where you left off. Just make sure to take a sufficient pause between the mistake and when you start again. It’s, of course, ideal to try and get through the whole speech in one take but mistakes happen and when they happen late in your speech it’s okay to take a breath and just pick up where you left off as long as you give a little space.

**10**

UPLOADING

Send only the raw footage, that means no editing, no filters, no music, etc. You can upload directly to Dropbox, Google Drive, Box, iCloud, send via WeTransfer, etc from your phone and then share the link with our team.

