

# Young Reporters' Scotland

## Tips for Reporting ~Film~



The use of visuals is often a very exciting way to showcase your topic and passions. For the audience it can be the most impactful and memorable. Whether you are using professional recording equipment or a mobile phone, you should consider the following:

### Choose Your Film style:

- ◆ The first step to producing your film is to think about the message you would like to get across and what style of film you think would work best – documentary, drama, interview etc.
- ◆ You should take into account the length of the film you would like to create as this could dictate your chosen style. If you are new to film, make your films short and simple with a clear message and develop your skills before making lengthier films.

### Preparation for Filming:

- ◆ Creating a storyboard will help you create a structure and timeline for your film. This will allow you to form a scene by scene visual and will enable you to establish who (if anyone), you would like to feature in the film i.e. interviewees, actors, presenters etc.
- ◆ Create a Shot List. This list should detail images that you would like to capture that will enhance your film and you can use as cutaways during the editing process. This will help you during filming to make sure you capture everything you intended and don't have to do a re-shoot

### Useful Techniques:

- ◆ If you are interviewing someone, make sure they talk to you across the camera and not directly into the camera. For example, make sure your interviewee is on the right-hand side of the camera, with you standing on the left of the camera. This means their eyeline will go across the camera as they focus on you, the interviewer.
- ◆ If you are presenting to camera then you should be positioned directly in the middle of the screen looking straight ahead, into the camera.

## Equipment Checks:

- ◆ It might sound obvious, but make sure your recording equipment is fully charged and working before you start.
- ◆ You should always do a test recording to check your equipment is working properly.
- ◆ LISTEN! Are there any background noises that will badly affect your recording? For example: fans, telephones ringing, traffic noise, wind noise, people noise. Find the quietest place possible and avoid recording in big echoing spaces.

## Keep Yourself Right:

- ◆ If you are filming people, make sure you have written permission to do so.
- ◆ If you want to use music in your video, we strongly recommend you do not use copyrighted material without a license.
- ◆ If you are submitting films to the YRS competition we cannot accept entries that break copyright laws.

## Getting Started with Film Activity:

Just 1 minute of film is a long time believe it or not and as a starter, you should aim to make a quick film that is between 30secs to 1 minute in length. Why not create a film about your school:

### Shot List:

Get started by creating a shot list, what shots do you think you should capture? The front entrance, school grounds, classrooms, school logo, achievements & awards, classroom activities etc.

### Interviews:

Do you want to practice interviewing? Why not line up an interview with your teacher or the Headteacher. What sort of questions would you want to ask them? Write a list of questions (5 max) and practice your interview technique with our Tips for Reporting—Interview Techniques guide.

### Camera Angles:

Practice capturing great shots, there are so many great shots you can capture with film. Take your camera out and work out what you can do with the camera to give the desired effect. For example, as an opening shot, you might want to pan the camera across your school building or you might want to do a slow zoom into the school entrance. Avoid zooming too much as a rule as this can be difficult to watch but it can create some really good opening and closing shots.

### Editing:

Find out what software your school uses and use this film as a way to introduce you to film editing or to develop your skills. Make sure you always backup your files and save your edit as you are working on it so you don't lose any work.