

DIY Video Shooter



Here are some simple rules to follow for shooting video with your cell phone.

Always:

- Shoot with the phone horizontal. The exception to this is if you are shooting TikTok or Instagram stories.
- Upload footage directly from the device or SD card to Google Drive. Emailing, texting, and using AirDrop degrades footage and images.
- Shoot in 4K.
- Shoot interviews at 24 FPS (frames per second).
- Shoot B-roll footage at 60 FPS (this allows you to use the slow-motion feature).
- Shoot interviews with the subject looking off camera (instead of into it).

Other Things to Note:

Device. You should shoot with a newer phone, such as an iPhone 10 or newer model (the iPhone 12 is best right now) or any of the Samsung Galaxy phones produced in the last couple of years. The rule of thumb: If it is older than a 2018 model, it's probably not the right device.

Tripod. Interview videos should be shot from a tripod, if you have one, to produce stable footage.

Stabilization. B-roll footage should use some sort of stabilization. (Those handheld stabilizers for phones are so inexpensive, it is ridiculous.)

Distance. Get closer to your subject, especially when taking B-roll footage.

Planning. Shoot to edit. It is very easy to overshoot, which adds additional time to the editing process.

Aspect Ratio. Use 16:9, not 4:3.

Important! AUDIO.

Audio quality is probably more important than video quality when it comes to interviews. You need to either upgrade sound equipment, shoot somewhere very quiet, or both. Sound pollution will ruin your video, making it unwatchable, and you will have wasted a lot of time. For conducting interviews, shotgun mics are OK, but a lapel mic is best. You'll need to do a little research to find the best audio-capture device for your phone.