

Camera Tips

Pre-production Setup

- Setup all cameras to "common" settings (this should be done before arriving)
See: [Checklist - Camera Settings](#)
- SD Cards are in the camera and there is enough room for 2 hours.
- Note: These are tips for a continuous "live" production with "house" lighting. There are many more checklists for lighting, scenes, scripts, direction, etc. for a multiple scene production.

Setup

- Place tripods
- Mount cameras
- Lay power cables, (tape or block where people will cross)
- Lay video cables
 - if going to a moving camera, tape it to the power cord, and tape the end to the tripod.
- Get white-balance. Manually set the camera with white paper

Camera Operation

Tripod

- Get familiar with the "pan" and "tilt" lock/release knobs
- Set the height of the camera to be at the eye level of the main person talking
- Practice smooth movements. Tuck your arm next to your body so your body will absorb jerky movements.

Controls

- You might need to reset the white balance if the camera was turned off.
- Opening/Closing the viewer turns the camera on/off.
- The viewer can be tilted to the best viewing.
- Find the start/stop record button. Notice what changes in the display and the record LED on the camera when it is toggled.
- Find the zoom toggle. Practice zooming. Notice that the zoom speed is sensitive to how much you move the toggle.

Techniques

- Framing. The viewfinder will be set up with 1/3 grids. See the [Framing Your Shots](#) document for how people are framed. Vertical framing is more important than horizontal framing.
- If a person is facing to the right, then put some space to their right.
- If a person is facing to the left, then put some space to their left.
- If you are following a moving person, put space in front of them.
- If you need to find another person who is talking and you are zoomed in, then zoom out, find the person, then zoom in on them. (*Do not pan around while zoomed in! It looks bad and it is hard to get the person framed.*)
 - If you are not live, then zoom out and in quickly, so the TD can switch to you.
 - If you are live, zoom out then in smoothly