



**TABLET
ACADEMY**

Top Tips for shooting a great news report



TOP TIPS FOR CAMERA OPERATORS

1. FIND A WELL-LIT SPOT TO FILM YOUR NEWS REPORT

Do NOT film directly into a bright light such as the sun or a large window. Try and angle your presenter/reporter so that the light is coming at them from the side.

2. USE A FLAT SURFACE OR TRIPOD

If you have a tripod to hand this will always yield the best shots. If not, try and hold your device as firmly as possible to avoid unnecessary camera shake. If filming on a smartphone or tablet device, you do NOT want to cover the audio/speakers whilst filming as this will impact the sound quality of your news report.

3. SHOOT FROM A RANGE OF ANGLES

A variety of angles will give your editor lots of ideas to work with in the edit when using cutaways and the best possible takes. Example of shot types could be long shot, middle or close up.

When you're filming, use a mixture of these shots.



Long Shot

Show your subject in full.



Close-up Shot

Your subject takes up most of the picture.



Medium Shot

Show your subject from the waist up.



Medium Close-up Shot

A head and shoulders shot.



Over The Shoulder Shot

There are two people looking at each other. The camera shot is from behind one of the people.



Two Shot

There are two people in the shot.



Long-sided Interview Shot

Your interviewee is off to one side, looking across the camera.

Remember – move the camera to get a better shot DO NOT zoom in digitally as this will degrade the overall picture quality. If need be, ask the presenter to move closer to the camera if that helps.

4. FILM IN A QUIET PLACE

The quieter the location the better the sound will be recorded and the more comfortable your presenters will be without the constant distraction of people hovering around!

5. FILM A BIT EXTRA (B ROLL)

Always give your presenters some time before they have to perform. It is common practice for camera operators to shout "rolling" once they have pressed record, for the Producer to then shout "Action" and then for the Presenter to begin their piece-to-camera. Once they are done it is very important that the Producer or Camera Operator give them at least two seconds of extra time before shouting "Cut" and the recording is stopped. This additional footage before and after the actual take is known as B-Roll and help your Editors when they come to editing. It means they will not be missing the beginning or end of anyone's sentence.



TOP TIPS FOR PRESENTERS AND REPORTERS



1. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Once you have completed your report planner, rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse some more! The more of your script you can recite without needing to stop/start the recording the more fluent and professional it will look.

2. INTRODUCE YOURSELF FIRST

A good introduction helps establish your piece. You may want to consider using titles in the edit to show your name on-screen also. Discuss this with your Editor. Be confident, stand up straight and deliver with authority.

3. USE GIANT CUE CARDS

Having key prompts written out and close by (behind the camera possibly) can help you remember what you have to say.

4. MAKE 'EYE CONTACT'

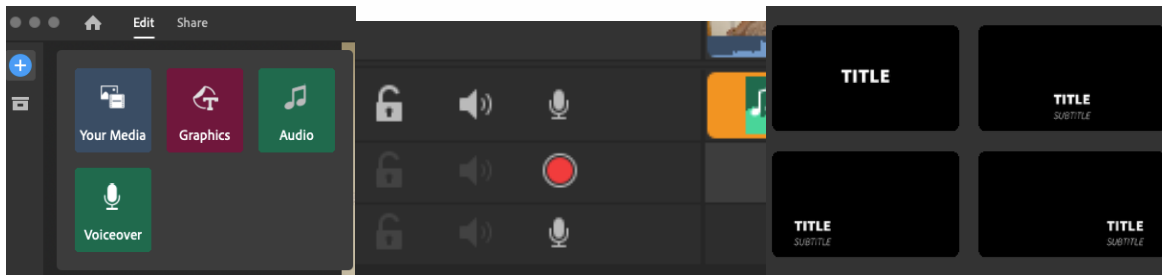
News reporters are expected to look directly at camera, looking away from the camera looks unprofessional and can be off putting. Looking directly at camera indicates that you are talking to the viewer, and you want them to listen and take you seriously.

5. SPEAK SLOWLY & CLEARLY

It is important that your message is heard clearly. It is better to speak slowly and clearly than trying to get too much information in. This may mean you need to reedit your script and also rehearse to get your timings correct.



TOP TIPS FOR EDITORS



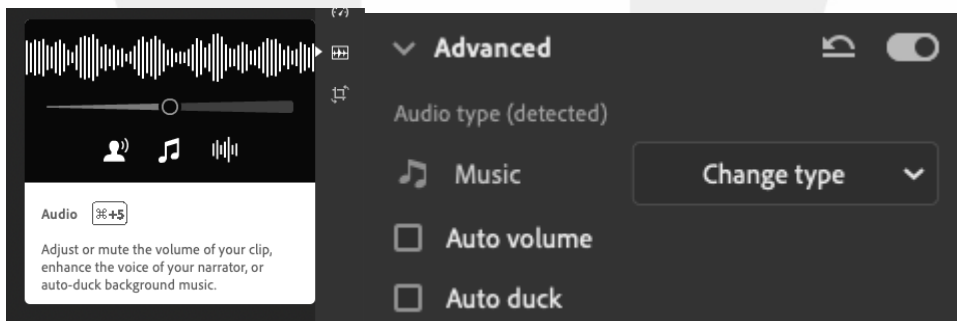
1. USE THE PLUS BUTTON TO ADD GREAT CONTENT

Adding graphics, audio music and a voiceover can really elevate the production quality of your news report. You may want to add a title for the introduction, you wish to use titles as subtitles or maybe as a name tag for your presenter.

2. USE PHOTOS IN PLACE OF MISSING FOOTAGE

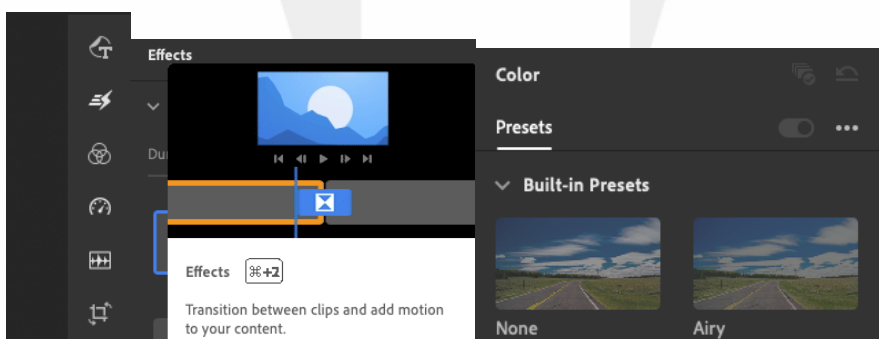
If you don't have any footage, you can use the stock photos from SKY Edit resources folder and simply add a Voiceover to narrate what is on screen.

3. AUDIO ADJUSTMENTS



Good audio is key – we talked about it earlier. If your audio is still quite low, use the audio adjustment option on the right-hand side options and then choose "Auto volume".

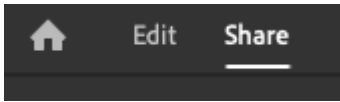
4. EXPLORE THE TOOLBAR



The toolbar on the right has lots of hidden power, explore with video transitions, filters, and cropping options.



5. SHARE AND CELEBRATE

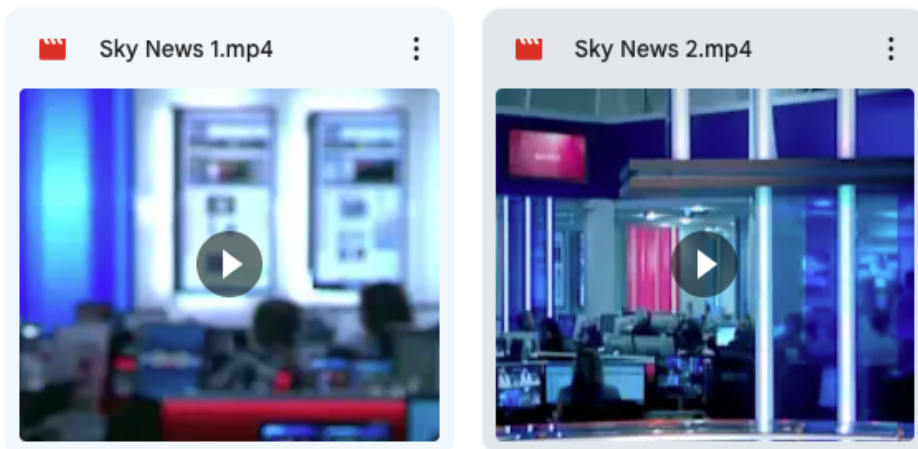


When done choose Share and export your finished film to share with your class.

EQUIPMENT SUGGESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL IDEA

GREEN SCREEN

Using a Green Screen can add a real professional touch to your production. Even if you do not have a pop-up green screen to hand even filming in front of a green or blue wall can work. You could even try a roll or green/blue cloth, or pieces of paper joined together and coloured green! Some mobile apps such as DoInk Green Screen for iOS (link [here](#)) even allow you to choose any dominant colour and remove it from the scene! You could then add in a background like the Sky News studio backgrounds found in the General Clips section of the video resources.



WIRELESS MICROPHONES

It is often stated within the film/tv industry that audio is more important than video. Audiences will often forgive mistakes on visuals but draw the line at bad audio. If they cannot hear the presenter then they cannot hear the story. Try and record your audio in a quiet location and be sure to make sure camera operators are not covering the microphone/speaker part of your device. If budget allows you may wish to look into a wireless solution such as the Rode Wireless Go or similar (link [here](#)).

BETTER LIGHTING

Try and shoot your news report in an area with the best possible lighting available. If the only option is to shoot near a big window, then try and move your presenter so that they are not standing in front. In situations where it is still too dark you may need to consider some additional lighting to give your presenter a more even looking glow. There are too many lighting brands to list but consider if the lighting best suited for your situation would be either one you mount on top of your devices or a light that will be on a stand. Lights usually require power so you may need to factor in the purchase of batteries or shooting somewhere that is close to a power socket.