

Camera Shots Handout

*****Save this handout for reference when planning/shooting your videos*****

Extreme Long Shots (ELS)

These produce a very wide field of view in which the camera takes in the entire playing area. The principle subjects are small in relation to the background and tend to compete with the surroundings for the viewer's attention.



Long Shots (LS)

These produce a slightly closer field of view than extreme long shots, but the subject remains dominated by the much larger background area. Establishing shots are extreme long shots or long shots.



Medium Shot (MS)

Here the subject becomes much larger and more dominant. The background is still important but now shares the video-space with the subject.



Medium Close-up (MCU)

This is the most prevalent shot used in television. The subject's head and shoulders make up the MCU, although different directors may see it slightly differently. A good starting point for framing the MCU is to include the first button of talent's open-collar shirt.



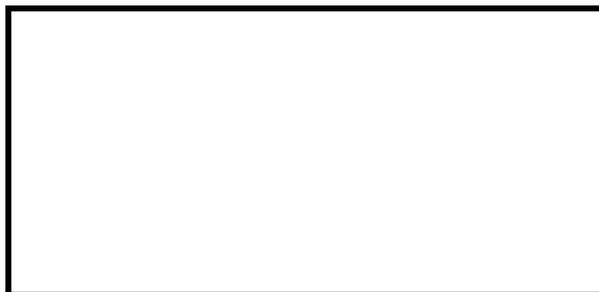
Close-up (CU)

The subject becomes the primary focus of interest within the shot. Only a small portion of the background is visible.



Extreme Close-up (ECU)

The subject virtually fills the screen and is clearly the central focus of the shot. Some directors call an extreme close-up on a subject's face a "slice shot" because the shot is so close it literally only shows a slice or portion of the subject's face.



Over-the-shoulder (OTS)

The over-the-shoulder shot frames a scene from over a subject's shoulder. This is usually used when two or more characters are speaking, since it helps to establish the relationship between them.



Birdseye Shot

When a camera is placed at an extreme high angle so that it is looking down from the top of the set, it is called a birds-eye shot. A shot from the Goodyear blimp over a football field is an example. Quite often in cooking shows (talk show cooking segment) a camera is set up to provide a birds-eye view of the top of a stove.



Profile Shot

The camera is set up to shoot the side of a subject's face or profile. In general a full-face shot is more effective and much more flattering than a profile shot of a subject. Use them sparingly. For reals... people look like... super-bad in profile shots.

