

PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs Tutorial Assessment: Interview Key

There are important things you need to do after you setup, but before the it actually starts.

Explain why they are important:

1. Prepare your subject- ***You want them to feel as comfortable as possible. Tell them that they can go over things again if they felt they messed up. Let them know that you are going to make them look great. Tell them to look at you and not the camera***
2. Turn off all cell phones- ***It is important to have your phones off for two reasons. First you don't want a phone interrupting the interview. Second, cell phones can interfere with the wireless lav microphones.***
3. Ask subject to wait a beat before answering a question and rephrase the question into their answer in a complete sentence-***This is important so that you can capture their full answer, and it is also very helpful when editing.***

Describe how you can make your subject feel as comfortable as possible:

Use the least invasive microphone on them. Explain to them that you are going to make them look as good as possible. Also, let them know that if they want to go back and answer a question better that they are allowed.

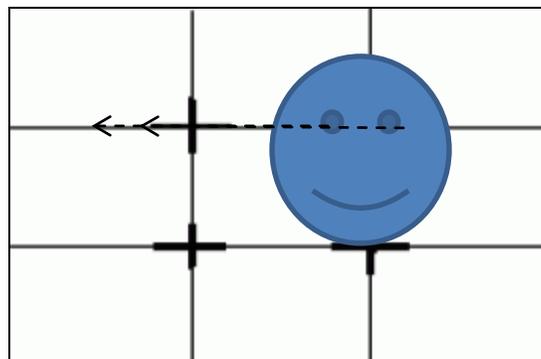
Circle true or false after the statement and then explain its importance to a good interview:

1. The camera operator should frame the shot so the camera is pointing down at the subject. T F

The camera operator should be aiming for the chin of the subject so that it is in line with the camera.

2. Using the “rule of thirds” the camera operator should frame the subject so that they are captured looking across access at the interviewer. T F ***Yes, this gives the photograph balance and it makes for good framing of the subject.***

Inside the box draw a stick figure (with eyes) to demonstrate the correct framing of the subject.



interrogation not name manual reframe the shot and do a close up
title interview what did you have for breakfast this morning

Using the box above choose the correct term or phrase and fill in the blank:

The camera operator should always have his camera set to **manual** during an interview. He should **not** look at the subject because it may be distracting. A good first question to ask the subject is “**What did you have for breakfast this morning?**” This gives the camera operator time to set the **audio** levels. Also, ask the subject to state their **name** and **title**. You should listen to your subject; it is an **interview** not an **interrogation**. When asking your most important questions or questions that may illicit an emotional response the camera operator should **reframe the shot and do a close up**.

Questions

*Give four examples of **good** ways to start questions, and two **bad** ways. Explain why this is important in the box to the right:*

Good

1. ***How***
2. ***Why***
3. ***What***
4. ***Where***

Because the first set of questions are all open-ended. This will give you better answers from your subjects. The “bad” questions will give you short “yes” or “no” questions and limits the kind of depth you can get from your subject’s response.

Bad

1. ***Did***
2. ***Will***

What is the most important question to ask, and when should you ask it?

Is there anything else you would like to add or talk about? Ask this question at the end of the interview

After you complete your interview you should:

1. ***Thank your subject.***
2. ***Shoot B-Roll***
3. ***Turn off the lights and wait for them to cool down. You can put things back in their place while you are doing this.***

Bonus:

How should you dress to an interview if you are the producer, the camera operator?

Answers will vary depending on what the teacher has explained to students.