



# JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

## GETTING READY TO FILM #1

**WEEK 4**  
**CHAPTER 4**  
**GRADE 3-5**

**LENGTH: 60-90 MIN.**

### OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Learn how to use a camera or iPad to film interviews.
- Learn camera framing and composition techniques: Rule of thirds, Headroom, Eyeline, Longsided interviews
- Practice taking test photos or videos using the techniques above.
- Choose a filming location and prepare the background.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook
- Writing utensils
- Paper or student notebooks
- iPads
- Projector for Slide Deck
- **Accompanying Slide Deck**

### ADD'L RESOURCES & LINKS

- [MAKE Your Story: Interviews](#)
- [I Minute @ Baycat on Framing](#)

### OVERVIEW

- Equipment
- Composition
- Activity: Composition Practice
- Picking a background
- Level Up: B-Roll

### OPENING DISCUSSION

#### Equipment

For elementary-aged students we recommend using iPads or a smartphone, wired or wireless lavalier microphones, and tripod. For further instructions and advice please see pages 40-41 in the workbook as well as the following links:

- [Shooting Video on iPhone: How to Record Professional Videos](#)
- [How To Shoot Better Video With Your Phone](#)
- [Smartphone Filmmaking: Documentary Filming With Your Smartphone](#)

#### Composition

For Composition examples, see slides 4-7 or Workbook pages 69-72

### ACTIVITY: Composition Practice

*Divide into pairs/groups with one iPad per pair/group. Now, go around class and practice taking photos of each other using the composition tools you just learned.*



## PICKING A BACKGROUND

- We recommend using your classroom or a visually appealing spot on campus as the background for your interviews
- When picking a location, pay attention to loud noises that may be nearby and whether the location is bright enough to appear well on camera
- Set-up your camera and plan how the background will look in advance to filming. Don't be afraid to move things around to look better for the camera

## WHAT IS B-ROLL?

*B-roll is extra video you film that isn't the main part of the story. In a documentary, the main part is usually people talking in interviews or a voice telling the story. B-roll shows other things that help explain or show what's being talked about. It helps make the video more interesting and easier to understand.*

### Shots with your Interview Subject

*In and around your interview location(s)*

- **Photos.** Taking video or pictures of someone's photos—like the ones on their wall, desk, or in an album—can help us learn more about their life and what's important to them.
- **Things on the Wall or Shelf.** The art, decorations, or special items someone shows in their space can tell us about their personality, interests, or culture.
- **Interviewee in Action.** Filming the person while they're doing things—like working, helping others, or doing chores—shows us more about who they are and what their life is like.

### Shots with your Interview Subject

*Outside of your interview location(s)*

- **Establishing Shots.** A quick video of the outside of a building or place helps the audience know where the story is happening.
- **Footage of the Town or Area.** Filming streets, parks, or other spots around the town shows what the place is like and helps us learn more about the people who live there.
- **Footage of Important Places.** If the person you're interviewing talks about something that happened in a certain place, try to film that place—even if they're not there when you film it.
- **Mood or Feeling Shots.** You can also film things that show a certain mood—like something peaceful, sad, or exciting. These shots help the audience feel what's going on in the story.



## B-ROLL COMPOSITION

B-roll is a great way to make your film more interesting by using different kinds of shots. A “shot” means how close or far the camera is from what you’re filming, and the angle you’re filming from. There are three types of shots: 1) Close-up; 2) Medium; and 3) Long. There are other versions of these, but these three are a good place to start!

**See slides 15-18 or Workbook pages 84-89**

## CLOSING DISCUSSION

Ask students if they can identify...

- What does Composition mean?
- What is B-Roll?