

MEDIA LITERACY WEEK

Shooting the story & reporting to camera

News that is broadcast on TV or streamed online requires pictures and sound to tell a story. The camera operator and sound recordist work with the news reporter to film and record audio that will be put together when the story is edited. In the newsroom, an executive producer usually approves times, and locations for any news shoot, who will be interviewed and what will be filmed.

Reporting to camera ('piece to camera') is one of the methods reporters use to tell their news story. It's a great way of showing where the story is taking place and allowing viewers to see the reporter in that place. Reporting to camera is also used to explain information, to join two parts of a story and to summarise a story.



[Watch the video: Shooting the story](#)

1. Camera shots

Make sure you get at least 10 seconds of each shot. This will make it easier to edit your story later.

- **Wide shot:** The wide shot shows the viewer the whole picture. It is a great way to establish a scene or show the environment around your subject.
- **Mid shot:** The mid shot allows you to focus in on a person while still leaving some background in view.
- **Close-up:** The close-up can show a detail in your story. This is often used to show someone's face but it can also be used to show other small details – for example, lacing up shoes or clipping on a helmet.
- **Extreme close-up:** The extreme close-up allows you to show the really small details. This could be someone's eyes or mouth or even the hands on a watch.

2. Camera movement

- **Panning:** The camera turns from one side of the scene to the other – that is, from left to right or right to left. Panning is a great way to show where your story is set.
- **Tilting:** The camera stays in one place but moves up or down. This is a great way to move from the foreground to the background or vice versa.
- **Zooming:** Zooming in focuses attention on something in a shot. Zooming out shows the bigger picture.



[Watch the video: Recording great audio](#)

3. Six things to remember when shooting and recording sound

1. Choose a location for filming that is:
 - » quiet, so your audience can hear what is being said.
 - » safe, to protect your team and the people being filmed from danger.
 - » approved by your executive producer.
2. Make sure the batteries in your phone or camera (and sound recorder, if you are using one) are fully charged. If you can, carry spare batteries just in case.
3. Make sure your camera or phone is focused and there is enough light. If you are using a camera with an automatic setting, use this. Remember not to film with light directly behind what you are filming.
4. Make sure you keep the camera steady. You might like to use a tripod or stand to help with this, if you have one.
5. Make sure the microphone is close enough to pick up the sound you want to record. If using a camera or phone microphone, the camera operator will have to stand close enough to record the sound.
6. Be sure to set the appropriate recording volume. Do a test recording and play it back to check the volume is adequate. Use earphones (if you have them) to listen and check on the sound as you record.



4. Reporting to camera

- How do you want to use your report to camera in the story? Do you want to:
 - » show where the story is set?
 - » have your reporter explain some difficult information?
 - » have your reporter link two parts of a story?
 - » show your reporter in the setting where the story takes place?
 - » summarise your story?
- Where will you put your report to camera in the story?
 - » In the middle – to explain difficult information, to join two parts of the story together or show where the story is set?
 - » At the end – to show the reporter in the setting or summarise the story.
- Where are you going to film? choose a quiet place without lots of noise so people will be able to hear what your reporter is saying.
- What are you filming? If you are filming an interview on location, film some shots that show your reporter listening and nodding at what is being said.
- What is your reporter going to say? write the script and keep it short (about two to three paragraphs). Use simple language so it easy to say and understand.

Reporters should present by:

- talking to the camera as if they are talking to a person.
- standing still rather than walking.
- speaking clearly and using expression (and trying not to sound like they are reading a script).
- trying not to move their hands or body too much, as this will distract viewers from what they are saying.