

TAKING VIDEO TIP SHEET:

SOUND

- Don't talk/engage with the speaker while they're speaking – resist the urge to laugh, affirm with uh-huh (it's impossible to edit out!)
- Get as far away from background noise as possible, including crowds, streets, music, other family members, etc.
- Give a good 3 second pause before and after you or the speaker is speaking, before you speak again or start/stop the recording

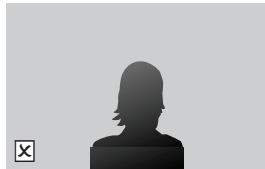
LIGHT

- Don't shoot indoors with a window behind the speaker, or outdoors with sun directly behind the speaker
- If outdoors, avoid having the sun behind you, forcing the speaker to squint.
- If the speaker can't/won't move while indoors, try to move so the light is hitting them sideways, instead of from behind

MOTION

- Steady the camera by resting your elbow on a surface or propping it on your chest and holding the camera with both hands
- Avoid moving the camera during filming
- Don't zoom in and out during recording
- Avoid being zoomed-in while recording, it produces a shakier video

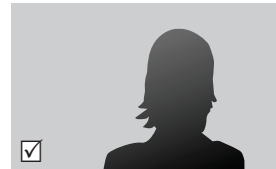
COMPOSITION



TOO FAR AWAY, TOO CENTERED



TOO CLOSE



JUST RIGHT, OFF-CENTER = GOOD



WANT TO USE A SMARTPHONE?

- Hold it so the recorded footage is **wider than it is tall**
- Clean the lense before use

THE INTERVIEW

- You don't have to get it all in one take if you/others can edit video
- Talk with the speaker beforehand, off camera, to encourage comfort. Go over the goal and how you're trying to help them tell their story to others. Try to mention all the key points you're hoping they'll talk about.
- Remind them that they should start answers to any questions by restating the question: Q: "How has being unemployed for so long affected your family?" A: "Being unemployed affects my family a lot, first..."
- In between pauses, ask follow up questions to make sure you get all the important pieces of their story. If they skip a detail (like how they lost their job), ask a question about it when they are done talking.
- Start and stop recording after each stretch of speaking if you have the ability to edit video. This creates many smaller files instead of one giant file.