

Camera Set-Up and Framing

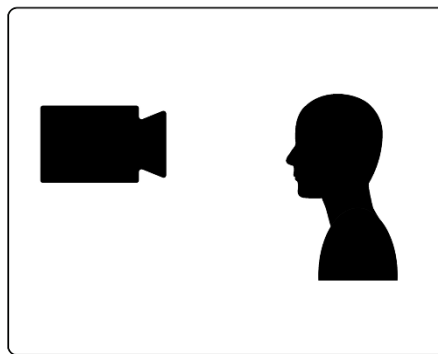
Whether you are recording a piece-to-camera or setting up an interview, these tips should help you get started.

White Balancing Your Camera

In order to record an accurate skin tone, you should perform a white balance on your camera. Here's how:

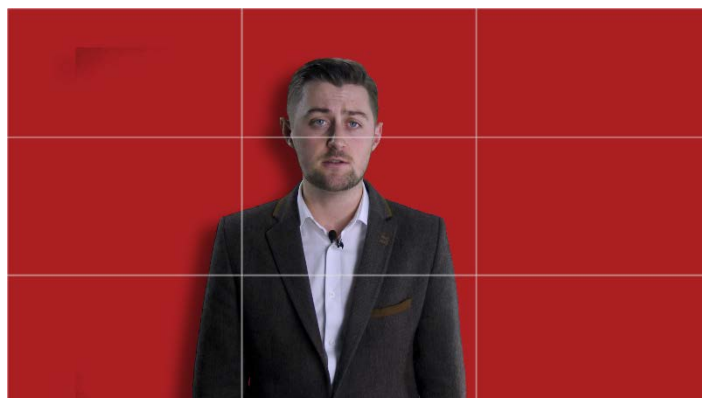
- After you have set up your lights, hold a white sheet of paper where your subject will be positioned.
- Zoom in until the white paper fills the screen of the camera.
- Press auto white balance.

Tip: Set up your camera(s) at eye-level with the interviewee/ subject



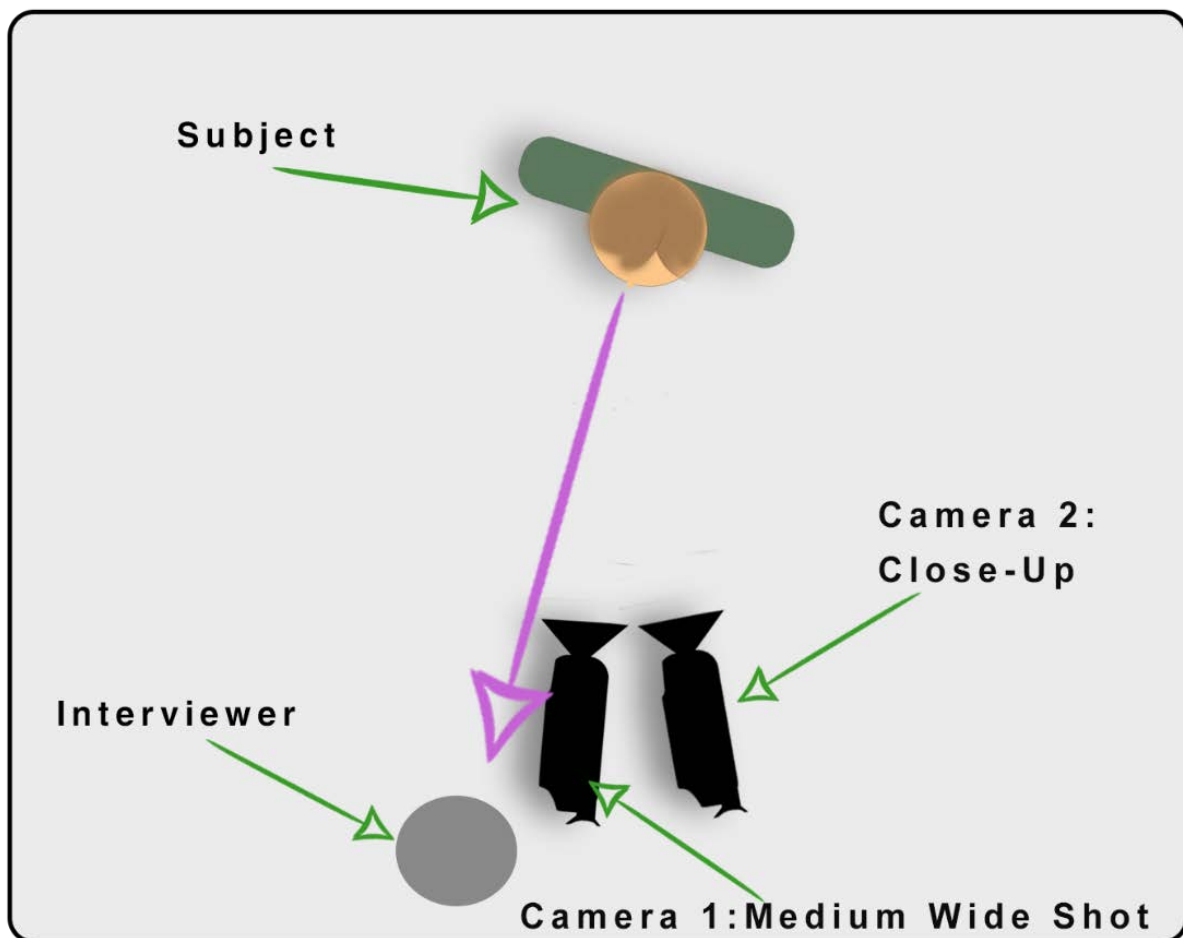
Framing for a Piece-to-Camera

If you are doing a Piece-to-Camera, it is acceptable to centre your shot and have the subject look directly into the lens.



How to Set up Two Cameras for an Interview

If you plan to use two cameras in your interview, it is important, that the camera angles complement each other and that the colour settings are similar on both cameras. Match the colour settings by performing a white balance on each camera (see above). Set up the cameras side by side and see if they match. Adjust the white balance accordingly. Ideally, use the same model or brand of camera as it can be difficult to match the colours of two different cameras in editing. The lenses of both cameras should be at eye-level with the subject. It is a good idea to place your interviewer at eye-level with the lens just to the side of the main camera as this will to keep the subject's gaze at the same level as the lens.



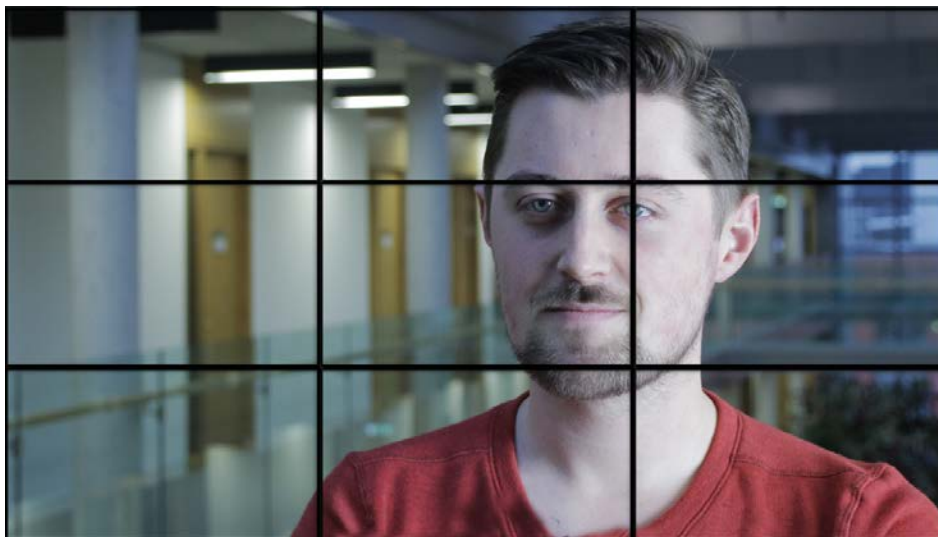
Framing your Shot

Tip: Most cameras have an option to activate a grid overlay to help you frame your shot.

Set up your main camera with the lens at eye level with the subject. If your camera is too high, the subject will appear smaller than they are; too low and the subject will appear bigger. Have the subject look just past the lens. A perfectly centred shot can look odd, so try to offset your subject to one side.



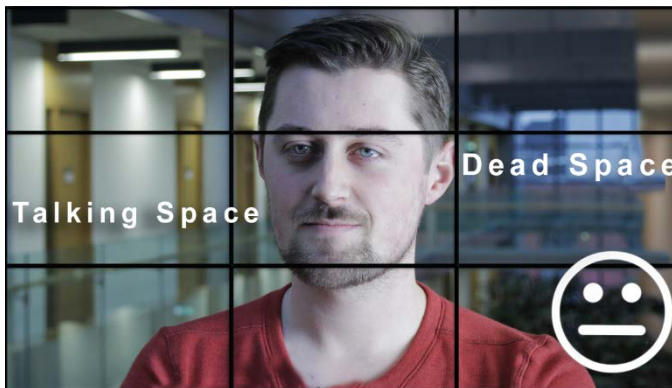
Medium Wide Shot: Make sure to frame your shot so the subject is talking towards the side with the most space.



Close-Up: This should have a similar composition to the wider shot. For example, if the subject is talking from right-to-left on the wide shot, then s/he should also be talking right-to-left on the close-up.



If you offset to the side of the frame towards which the subject is speaking, the shot can look a little strange and feel claustrophobic for the viewer.



If you place your subject in the centre, this can also look strange as there is equal amount of space at the back of the speaker's head as the front. Give the speaker breathing room by opening up the 'talking space'.



This kind of framing works best for an interview set up.