

The logo for ADD International, featuring the letters 'ADD' in a stylized, white, handwritten font on an orange background.

International

Specioza, disability rights activist, Uganda.

A woman with a joyful expression is harvesting eggplants in a field. She is wearing a bright red t-shirt and a patterned skirt with red, black, and white geometric designs. A wooden handle of a tool is resting on her shoulder. She is holding several dark purple eggplants. The background shows a field of green eggplant plants and some dried corn stalks under a clear sky.

SHOOTING

VIDEOS.

SHOOTING A VIDEO. TOP TIPS.

PREPARING THE SHOOT.

Battery and memory cards.

Make sure you have a full battery and big enough memory cards – there is nothing worse than having to stop someone in the middle of a great recording to change either. It will put your interviewee off and if you are filming a conversation it will lose its natural flow, and you will potentially miss your 'golden take'.

Sound check.

Record a few seconds of chat and play it back, to make sure the microphone is working well.

Photos.

Use this time to take a couple of photos too as these are always handy!

Check the surroundings.

Do you have enough light? Are the sounds around you disruptive?

Decide how you want your shot to be.

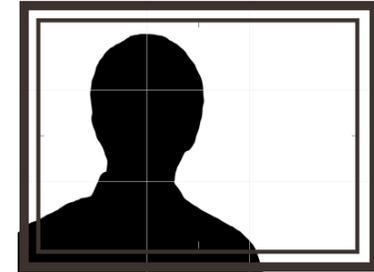
You want the interview to be personal and intimate? Or do you want to show the context?

Or do you want the person to look directly at the screen? (It's obviously hard to make this look 'natural' but not impossible.)

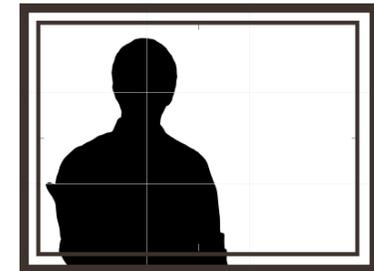
Either way, make sure you leave a nice bit of space above their head!

Focus.

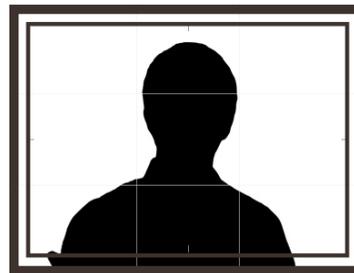
Adjust the sharpness of the camera.



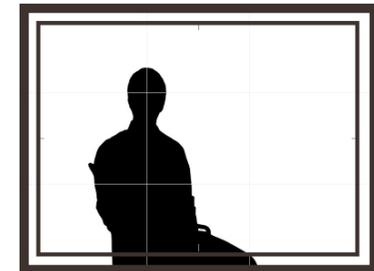
More intimate.



1:1 conversation.



Person looking directly at the camera.



Showing more context.

SAFETY FIRST!

Remember to consider the safety of the person you're interviewing. Read some on this on the "Gathering Stories" guidelines.

When to press Record.

Remember to start filming before they speak – sounds obvious but it's good to leave a few seconds before they start and then cue them in with a thumbs up, same goes for the end, don't stop recording straight after the finish, leave a few seconds or 'air' before stopping. This is normally the time when your interviewee is most relaxed and natural – a wonderful moment to capture for future use.

Keep a Clash Free zone.

If your interviewee is a fan of funky colourful shirts, then it's best to make sure the background behind them is a plain neutral colour to avoid clashing.

It's best practice to make sure the background isn't too 'busy' – you don't want to distract from the interviewee or words that they are saying. So make sure there are

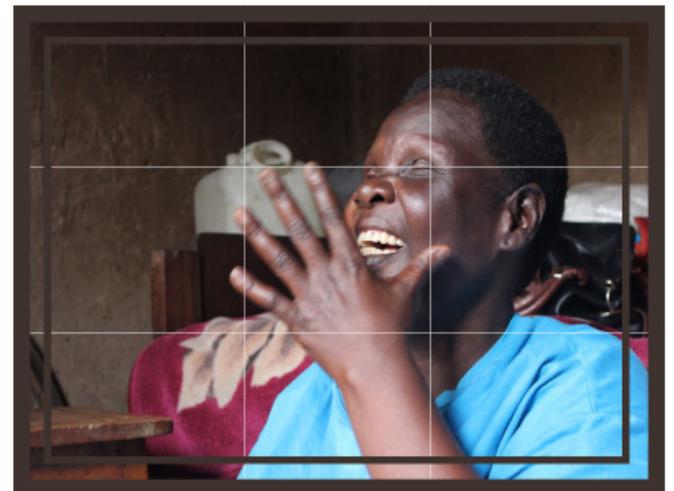
no computer screens, TV's, people, cars or parties going on behind them. – The simpler the better (a nice one colour wall – perfect!).

Whilst we're at it try not to have too many/ no distractions in front of the interviewee – their eyes will wander.

Natural conversation.

Try to keep the conversation as natural as possible, and try to get your interviewee to talk or tell stories about their lives or other people's.

But remember, don't interrupt them or make your voice heard. Let them finish. Chances are your part will be cut out.



SHOOTING A VIDEO.

SHOOTING ON PHONES.

SHOOTING ON PHONES.

The advantage of smartphones.

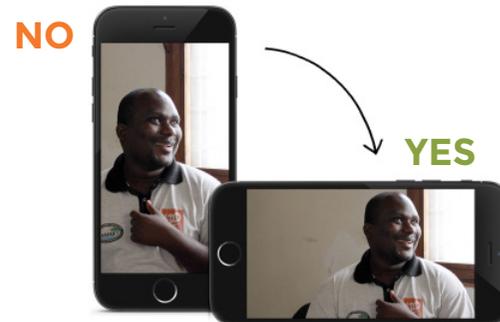
Today's smartphones and tablets shoot great HD video out of the box, and there's an incredible number of accessories available to upgrade their recording capabilities.

They're smaller, they're easy to transport, they're less intrusive than a massive camera, they connect to wifi and you can post on social media straight away.

Why not choose a smartphone instead?

Tips for recording with smartphones.

1. Please take the video landscape (horizontal):



2. Natural light is important. Can you interview them outside?
3. Ideally, the phone should not be hand held, but placed on a sturdy surface, or a tripod.
4. Don't worry about pressing stop/play. It could be a flow, and we can make edits if needed.
5. Ask questions to the interviewee and, if possible, ask them to answer them looking at the phone

6. The more stories they can tell about their life and experience, the better.
7. Don't worry about length, a great video can tell its story in 1-5 minutes.

Useful accessories you can buy.

- A small tripod or support.
- An extra microphone.