

Capturing Awesome Video – Checklist

- **Be Awesomely Prepared**
 - Create a Storyboard!
 - Check on location lighting and setting the day before filming (Weather).
 - Gather everything you will need to film a week before you begin shooting your movie.

- **Get Awesome Sound**
 - Keep your subject(s) close to the camera.
 - Eliminate background noise as much as possible.
 - Use an external microphone if available.
 - Make sure the microphone is out of the camera's view.
 - Use headphones to monitor the sound quality.
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- **Get Awesome Lighting**
 - Before shooting, determine where the light is coming from [front, side, or back].
 - If you shoot into a bright light, add more light in front of your actors or move to another location.
 - Avoid bright sunlight [make sure your shadow are not in the shot].
 - If filming inside, turn on all of the lights.

- **Get Awesomely Clear and Steady Footage**
 - Use the image stabilization feature of your camera if it has one.
 - Use a tripod whenever possible.
 - If no tripod is available, hold your bent arm tight against your body or lean against a solid surface to stabilize the shot.
 - Use the camera's auto focus feature.
 - Avoid quick camera pans and zooming in and out – let the actors provide the motion.

- **Capture the Awesome Complete Story**
 - Press “Record” about 5 seconds prior to the action starting and let the camera run about 5 seconds after the action stops.
 - Capture an establishing shot at the beginning of each scene.
 - Get shots that tell the beginning, middle, and end of your story.
 - Change locations and take shots from different angles and perspectives.
 - Look for details in the scene that helps tell your story.
 - Make sure your footage answers the questions, who, what, when, where, and why.

- **Think about Your Awesome Composition**
 - Make sure all parts of your shot work together – the subject, background, color, and lighting.
 - Position your subject off center for a more interesting shot.
 - Make sure there is no unnecessary space around the subject.

- **Don't Forget the Awesome Background** ☐
 - ☐ Keep the background simple.
 - ☐ Include a few props that will make the shot more interesting, but not distract from the main subject.
 - ☐ Make sure there are no distracting objects in the camera's view.
 - ☐ Check that objects don't look like they're growing out of your subject.

- **Get Awesome Shots** ☐
 - ☐ Only use your zoom to quickly switch between close-up and wide shots – you can edit out the abrupt zoom in your final movie.
 - ☐ Try to get at least two types of camera shots for each scene you film: close-up, medium, or wide.
 - ☐ Anticipate the action so you get the shots you need.
 - ☐ Use extra cameras so you can capture the same shot from different points of view.
 - ☐ Record a few seconds before and after a scene so it will be easier to edit.

- **Capture Awesome Candid Shots** ☐
 - ☐ Make your subjects feel comfortable and relaxed by talking and interacting with them.
 - ☐ Try to be discreet.
 - ☐ Take still images with a digital camera so you can incorporate the still images into your movie.

- **Be Awesomely Prepared** ☐
 - ☐ Review your footage to make sure you have all the shots you need – work from your storyboard.
 - ☐ When you finish filming, take load the files on to your laptop or an external drive and put it in a hard case – **protect your raw video.**
 - ☐ If you need to re-shoot, do so at the same time of day so the light matches earlier footage.