

## Shooting an Interview?

### Equipment you'll need:

Equipment	Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CKTV Bag (the big, bulky, blue one)	
60D (If there are no 60D's available, use a T2i. If using a T2i, change a 60D items below to T2i)	
60D Battery (Make sure they are charged)	
60D Extra Battery (Make sure they are charged)	
Tripod (Make sure it has a shoe. Test <b>all</b> legs and knobs.)	
DXA-SLR Mini Box ( <b>Test</b> box and <b>take</b> a recording and <b>listen</b> to it on a computer)	
Sennheiser Microphones (Test Mics with Mini Box)	
Full AA Batteries for Sennheisers	
Full Extra AA Batteries for Sennheisers	
SD Card with Space (Always bring SD Card to school)	
Extra SD Card with Space (See above)	
Light Bouncer	
Rode Mic (for b-roll)	
9V Battery (For Rode Mic)	
Extra 9V Battery	
Head/Earphones	
Interview Questions	
Laptop (If needed. You may transcribe & import on the way back)	
Laptop Charger (If needed.)	

## After you gathered all your equipment:

**Triple** check that you have all the equipment needed and that everything is turned off. Sign out all equipment and have your witness review the checklist to be sure you have everything. Place your tripod near your bag (so you won't forget it) and place a sign with your name on it on top of your bag.

## Meeting the Interviewee:

- Thank the interviewee for their time and for doing the interview.
- Give them an overview of what the interview will be about.
- Ask them politely to avoid looking at the camera and instead at the interviewer
- Give them the questions if requested.
- **Always be POLITE!** Make the interviewee comfortable, compliment them.

## Filming the Interview:

- Rule of thirds

Place your interviewee on either the left or right side of the screen and have them look on the opposite direction [See below: Nose Knows] The photo to the right is an example of a good use of the rule of thirds. One third of the frame should be above the person's eyes. One third of the frame should be the person's face and shoulder area. One third of the frame should be the person's lower torso.



- Nose Knows

(the nose should be pointing in the direction of the area with lots of space)

If you position them on the right side of your screen, have them look *your* left. If you position them on the left side of your screen, have them look *your* right. The photo above is an example of a good use of the “nose knows” rule. But don't make your interviewee turn too much as if it would be a mug shot.

- Zoom

You will want to zoom in to only get their midsection/chest to their head, see example above. Do **not** cut off their head, chin, or any part of their body from that range. But you want *some* headroom, but not too much. More in “The Interviewee”.

- Lighting

**Stay away** from doing interviews in front of windows or bright things. You will have the silhouette effect. Don't do it.



Never do an interview in front of a window or bright light source or this will happen.



- Lighting: Continued

If there are harsh shadows on your interviewee's face, use a light bounce to reflect light on their face. Have someone hold it *still* for the whole interview or there will be uneven lighting. You should change the lighting exposure to fit; not too bright, not too dark. 60D's have a dial to change the exposure easily, but any other camera you can go under it's settings.



- Peacock Effect

You do **not** want the peacock effect. It is when there is something distracting, such as plants, in the background of your interviewee sticks out of your interviewee and makes it look like a peacock.



This is a bad example of an interview. There's a plant sticking out of his head; a peacock effect.

- The Interviewee.

Ask the interviewee to kindly take off any hats and sunglasses, but prescription is fine. Hide anything offensive, inappropriate, or irrelevant to the story, including logos.

Bad Example: A lifeguard wearing a Hurley shirt: irrelevant and has a logo.

Good Example: A lifeguard wearing their uniform that says lifeguard: is relevant to the story. The interviewee's eye level should match the level of the camera. If your interviewee is standing, don't make your interviewer sit, vice versa. Ask interviewee to put the mic wire **under** their shirt no matter what.

- Audio

**Do not** speak, hum, or make any noise while recording. Even if you are saying “uh-huh” to ensure that you are listening, you are actually making noise! Just nod your head and smile, but do not speak. Keep in mind that the mics pick up ambient sound: all sound. So if you make any noise, there isn’t a way to remove it in post while editing. Adjust your audio levels using the DXA-SLR box and listen while recording using your headphones.
- Asking Questions

Print out your question sheet, but try to remember the questions beforehand so you don’t seem unprepared. **Don’t** fidget with the paper or anything else while the interviewee is talking or read the questions. Focus **all** your attention to what the interviewee is saying. Chances are, you will end up creating follow-up questions along the way if you’ve been listening to the answers. Have you heard any good sound bytes while listening? You can have an idea for your script.