



Recording with a Phone Camera 6-12

Student reFraming Grant Project

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COURSE PREREQUISITES.

NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

THIS PROJECT IS OFFERED IN ASSISTANCE TO A GRANT FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC INTERACTION WITH PUBLIC HISTORICAL RECORDS. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESEARCH PUBLIC ARCHIVES SUCH AS CENSUS RECORDS, MARRIAGE, BIRTH, DEATH RECORDS, ETC. IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION REGARDING AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE LANDOWNERS IN THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the fundamental principles of video recording using a phone camera.
- Learn basic camera settings, framing, lighting, and audio considerations.
- Apply learned techniques to record a short video using their phone.
- Reflect on their recording process and evaluate their work and peers' work.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- Smartphones with cameras
- Tripods (if available)
- External microphones (if available)
- Ring lights or portable LED lights (optional)
- Headphones (for audio monitoring)
- Printed or digital checklist for phone camera settings and framing rules
- Examples of well-recorded and poorly recorded videos

| CLASS | TOPIC | READING / ASSIGNMENT |
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| 1 | Introduction | <p>1. Introduction (10 min)</p> <p>Show two short video clips: one with good framing, lighting, and audio, and one with poor quality. Ask students to compare the two: What makes one better than the other?</p> <p>Briefly introduce key concepts: framing, lighting, audio, and stability.</p> <p>2. Mini-Lesson (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing & Composition: Rule of thirds, headroom, leading lines. • Lighting: Natural light vs. artificial light, avoiding backlight. • Audio: Importance of clear audio, reducing background noise. • Camera Settings: Resolution, frame rate, focus, and exposure. • Stability: Holding the phone steady, using a tripod or resting on a surface. <p>3. Hands-On Practice (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair students and have them practice framing each other using the rule of thirds. • Experiment with different lighting conditions (indoors, near a window, outdoors). • Record a short clip testing audio in different environments. <p>Exit Reflection (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the most challenging part of today's practice? • What questions do you still have about recording with a phone? |

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| 2 | Recording | <p>Warm-Up & Review (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick recap of key points from Day 1. • Discuss any observations or questions from practicing at home (if assigned). <p>Group or Individual Assignment (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task: Each student (or small group) will record a 30- to 60-second video introducing themselves or describing a favorite activity. • Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Use proper framing (rule of thirds). ◦ Ensure good lighting (natural or artificial). ◦ Pay attention to audio quality (speak clearly, avoid background noise). ◦ Keep the camera steady. <p>Peer Review & Discussion (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students exchange videos with a partner and provide feedback using a simple checklist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Is the framing clear and engaging? ◦ Is the lighting effective? ◦ Is the audio clear and understandable? • Volunteers share their videos with the class, discussing challenges and successes. <p>Reflection & Wrap-Up (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the biggest takeaway from this lesson? • What will you improve in your next recording? |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might these skills be useful in everyday life or future projects? |
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