

Tips for recording yourself with a smartphone

Environment

- Make sure you are in a small and closed space. A closet would be ideal. You want to avoid echo.
 - Spaces such as offices, living rooms, and bathrooms are not ideal.
- Try to record at a time when there is little to no sound around you. If you can hear the T.V., the garbage truck, or the voices of people you live with, odds are the recording will pick that up as well.

Smartphone

- Any smart phone with the ability to record image and sound is sufficient; the use of a wired or wireless microphone is optional.
 - Apple devices already come with the Voice Memos app.
 - Android users can download for free Easy Voice Recording.

You

- Make yourself as comfortable as you can in this closed space. Consider if you prefer to be sitting down, or standing up, if you'll need a place to put your devices and script on, etc.
- Print your script. Or, use a device different than your phone to read your script, such as tablet or laptop.
 - Whichever option you choose, make sure you read your script out loud several times so you can get comfortable with it.
 - If you choose to print the script, be mindful of the noise the paper can make. Consider laying the sheets of paper on a table to prevent rustling/ruffling sounds.
- It's ok to break down the script by paragraph instead of reading it all in one sitting. For example:
 - Read a paragraph, take a breath, relax, read the next paragraph, and so on.
 - Read the script on page one of a sheet of paper. Then, put down that paper and pick up the next, then continue reading. That way, the sound the paper isn't competing with your voice.
- If you make a mistake, instead of starting again right away, take a deep breath, and count to three out loud. Then, start again.
 - If you restart a sentence right after your mistake, it will be harder for the editor to make a clean cut.
- Place your phone with the built-in microphone towards you (they are located at the bottom).
 - With your hand, make the shape of the image at right. Your pinky will be touching your phone and your thumb will be touching your mouth. That is as far away as your phone should be from your mouth.

