

Basics of Good Videography: Joed Polly – ARCUS Video Production

Keep your camera charged. Make sure you have enough free space on the SD card. On the Casio camera, 1 minute of video is about 94 MB of video on the SD card. And there is a 10-minute maximum clip length, so take that into consideration.

Tripod:

When you can, use a tripod to get a much nicer shot. Shaky footage is never fun to watch or useful for much of anything. This is especially true for shots where you are zoomed in to a subject (like a polar bear out on the sea ice). But sometimes you won't have time to get your tripod. In this case, use both hands to steady the camera. Leaning on a wall or doing an elbows-on-knees crouch can also sometimes be useful.

Lighting:

When shooting video outdoors, the lighting should be pretty good in the Arctic and Antarctic summers. Although if you are filming someone in the middle of the day, try to avoid really bright sunlight shining on your subject. If you are ever in a dark indoor space, take low light into consideration. Your video camera will get grainy, dark, bad footage in a dim indoor space. Use any light source you can to light up a dark space (open window blinds, turn on more lights). If you have just one bright light source, you can even get fancy and bounce the bright light off of a piece of white cardboard/poster board to reflect light onto your subject (prop it up, or have another person hold it for you).

Audio:

The audio will never be amazing on most cameras, but it should be sufficient for most things. Make sure not to cover the microphone holes on the camera. And try not to have anything rubbing against the camera that would make a noise (even something like a coat sleeve rubbing could overpower everything else). If you are interviewing someone, make sure they are as near to the microphone as possible while still having a nicely framed shot. And don't be afraid to ask them to speak up if they are talking quietly (or you won't hear them when you go to watch the footage). Try not to interview anyone in a noisy location if you can help it. Wind can be an issue too. You might want to try having the wind to your back if you can, so that your body blocks the camera from the direction of the wind.

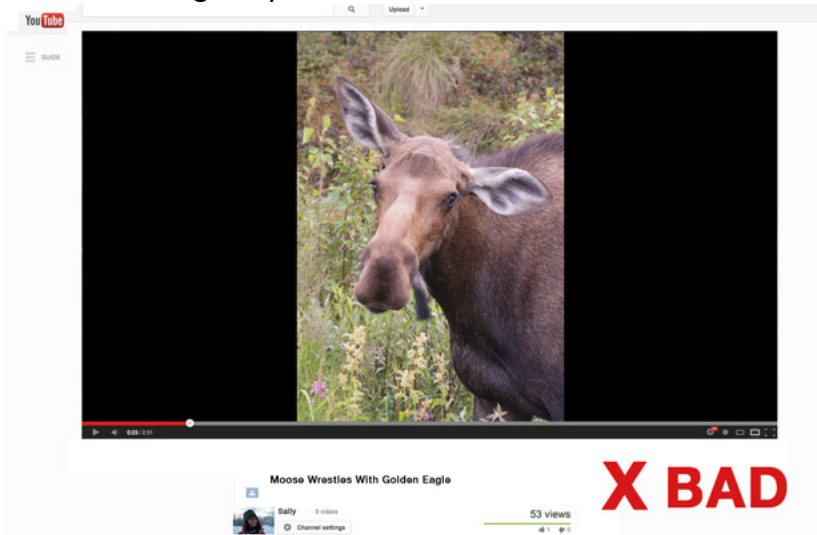
Framing:

Frame your subjects well. You learn the “rule of thirds” during photography lessons. Use this in videography as well. Centering a person can be okay if they are talking directly into the camera, otherwise, place them towards the left or right. If they are looking off to the right, place them on the left of the frame. If they are looking off to the left, place them on the right of the frame. If you can help it, don't do lots of zooming in and zooming out as part of your shot. Often you can zoom in to frame your shot, and then

hit record. However, zooming is okay if you are about to miss a shot of wildlife!

ONLY TAKE FOOTAGE IN LANDSCAPE MODE. Video recorded in portrait mode will never look good in your edited movies or online.

Portrait mode gives you black bars on each side and is bad.



Landscape mode always looks best with video. Keep your camera horizontal!

