Filming for Videos
Description of Filming

Filming is a major component in digital storytelling, even if the elements being filmed are all *digitally based* (i.e. digital drawings and animations created by the storyteller.

Planning is essential for a smooth filming process. It's important to plan what needs to be filmed by referring to the script and noting the relevant information of the filming process. *Who* is filming? *What* is being filmed and *why*? *When and where* is filming occurring? How much time is needed? Students should scout out filming locations ahead of time, to ensure they will be *open* and *available* during the planned filming times. Filming or recording locations may require permission from authorities, so gathering this information and permission in advance will remove those potential roadblocks during filming and or audio recording.

It helps to gather together all the equipment necessary (*microphones*, *phones*, *cameras*, *people*, *etc*.) in advance of when they need to be used and test each one to make sure they work.

Process of Filming

Gather together all the necessary equipment (*microphones*, *phones*, *cameras*, *people*, *etc*.) in advance of when they need to be utilized and test each one to make sure they work.

Digital storytellers should film a number and variety of shots lengths. It's easier to *delete footage* than it is to *reshoot footage.* This is important because having multiple shot lengths ensures the value of what the producer wants to present is fully captured for editing and for overall production purposes.

It's important to be considerate of the filming environment such as streets, buildings, or transit because these locations have background noise that can impede audio recording for the digital story.

Being a part of video production can be intimidating the first time – just be yourself. Some of the best content comes from people who are courageous with their choices when filming a Digital Story.   Remember to record the citations of resources used in the digital story.

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Tips

First-time digital storytellers may not think multiple takes are necessary if they think they already recorded the necessary shot. Veteran Storytellers know to record more than seems necessary, *even if the first one seems perfect already.* It's easier to *delete recordings later during editing* than it is to set up and re-record.

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Definitions

Copyright-Free Resources: Refers to resources (ex. videos, music, pictures, etc.) that are not legally owned by any persons or entities. These resources allow varying levels of use (personal, commercial) in their videos.

Scene: This is the location where you are filming and includes all of the elements being filmed including actors, props, and effects that occur during filming.

Shot /Take: A recording of a particular scene (ex. *take* one of recording a scene, or the *shot* of the actor standing on the horizon). Multiple shots or takes of a scene are recommend.