



A QUICK GUIDE TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN
SHORT FILMS

Produced by the University of Saskatchewan Media Production
& the Global Institute for Water Security





CHAPTER 3: *Production*



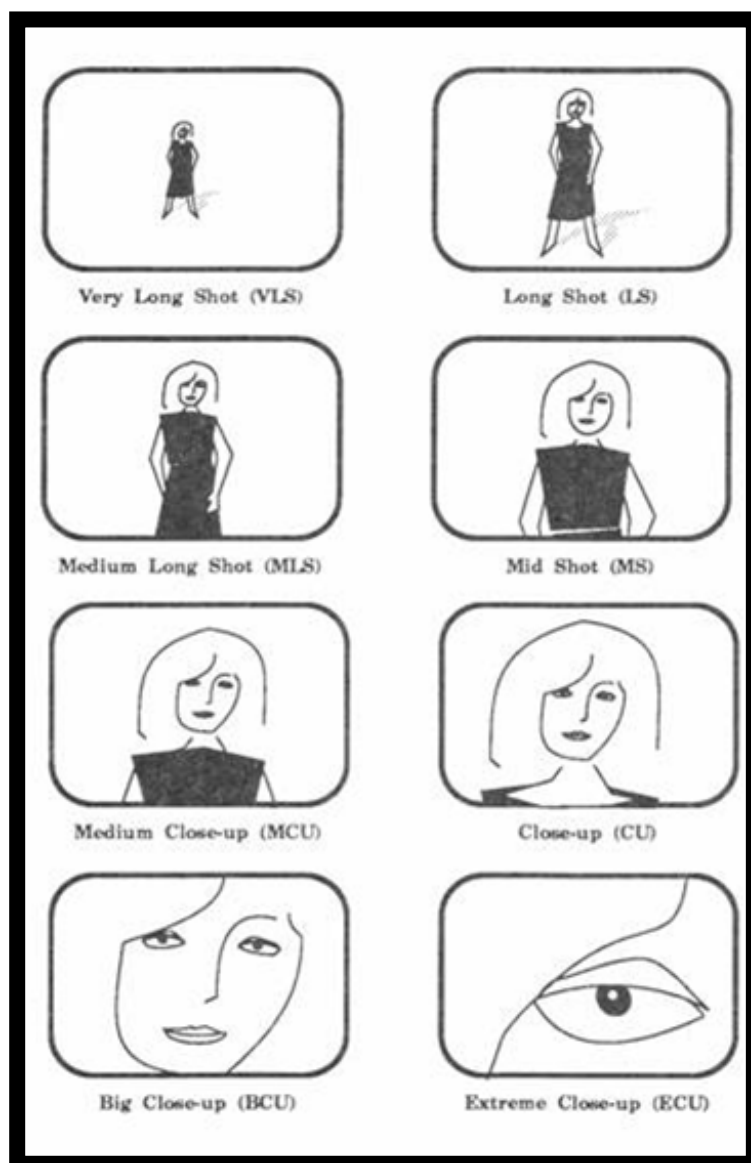
PRODUCTION

A GLOSSARY PRIMER:

- “**A**” roll – the interviews, dramatized parts or the scripted narration
- “**B**” roll – the establishing visual shots, the cover footage or scenery shots
- [The basics of B-roll \(videos\)](#)
- **Stock footage** - pre existing footage that you have available or purchased footage
- ***shoot holding your phone sideways for a horizontal shot.**

Shot Sizes and Framing:

- [Framing and composition guidelines \(video\)](#)



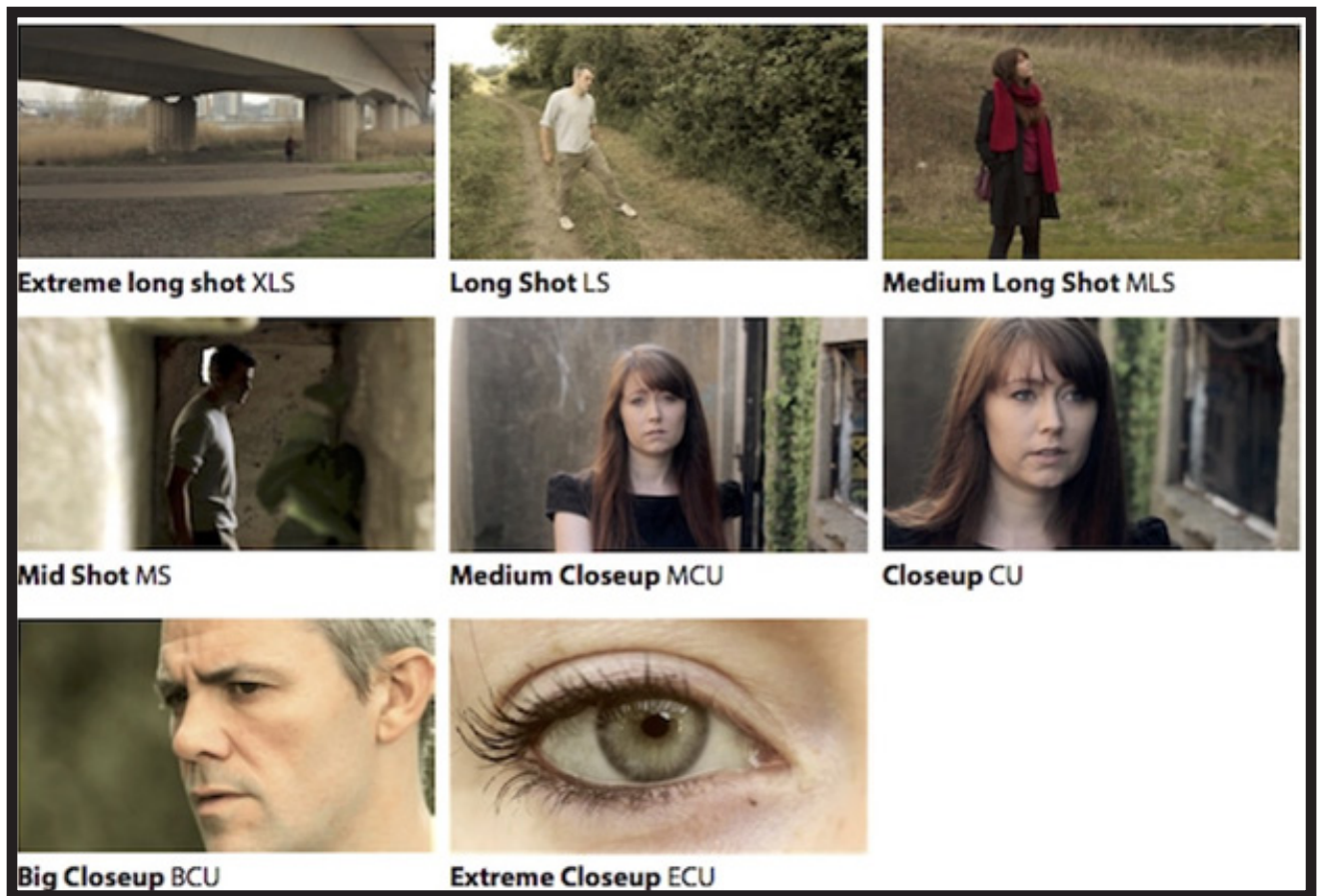


Image 2.8

Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds involves mentally dividing up your image using 2 horizontal lines and 2 vertical lines, as shown below. You then position the important elements in your scene along those lines, or at the points where they meet.

- [Rule of thirds resource \(website\).](#)

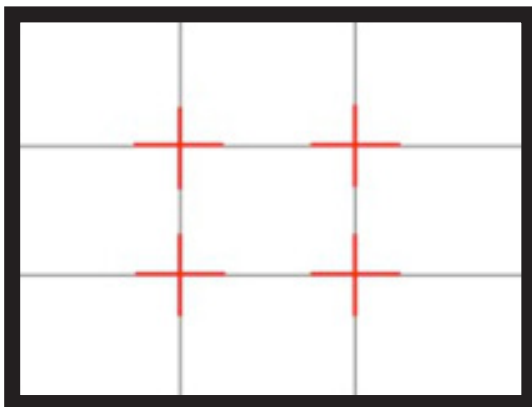


Image 2.9 - Rule of Third grid

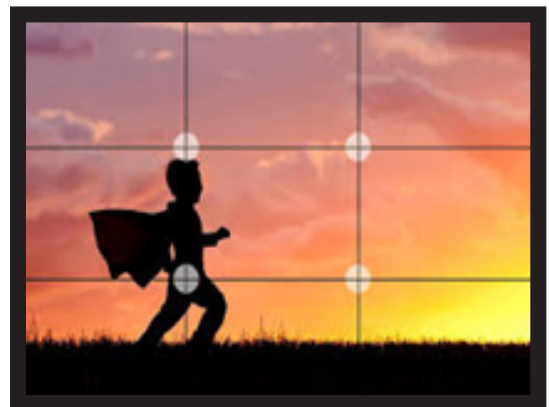


Image 2.10 - Rule of Third grid example

Camera Angles

RESOURCES:

- [Steemit Film School - Essential Camera Shots \(website\)](#)
- [Camera Angles - BTC Lab \(video\)](#)



Image 2.10 - Camera angles example.

Interviews

If you are interviewing people for your film, consider the following:

- Greet interview subjects and make them feel comfortable but try not to talk about elements of your interview questions. Save that conversation for the interview.
- Remind interview subject where their eye line will be (to you or to camera)
- If appropriate, ask them to reframe the question in their response
- Do not talk or make sounds of acknowledgement while interview subject is talking
- Leave time after they finish speaking before you respond or pose another question (allows you clip time for your edit)
- Don't be afraid to follow up with questions that may not be on your list, but that come up during the interview – keep it conversational
- At the end of the interview, always ask if there is anything that they would like to add that you may not of thought to ask.
- Get appropriate releases – interview subject, location, artwork etc.

Setting up your interviews:

- Consider a location with best available light and little or no background noise
- Set up your interview with some distance between the person and the background. This creates a shot with some depth and interest. Make sure your background is appropriate, and avoid filming art work that may appear in the back-ground

- Slate each person with their name and the date you filmed them. A simple paper slate will work in a pinch.
- Avoid logos on clothing or any items that may appear in the frame.
- If doing more than one interview for your film, frame all interviews in a similar way, alternating side of screen from person to person. (opposite looking room) (image 2.11-2.12).

Resource

- [Understanding Framing and Focus \(website\)](#)



Image 2.11



Image 2.12

Production notes:

Following your storyboards or shot list, ensure that you have completed everything you require:

- Always do multiple takes of performance scenes
- Always do multiple take of b-roll or scenery
- If you are concerned that the audio wasn't great, do it again!
- Ensure all releases for talent and location are completed
- Clean up any mess you made, furniture you used or moved and thank the hosts. It's a good idea to take a picture of the location when you arrive so you can accurately return everything to where it belongs