

FRAMING

Choosing angles and camera positions can have different effects. For example, a shot can become more dramatic if from a low angle and an interesting perspective can be obtained by looking for a bird's eye view down on the scene. Looking up at a subject can make them appear more imposing, looking down can make them appear less significant.

GOING STRAIGHT

Look for horizontal and vertical lines in the frame. Unless you're trying for a tilt effect make sure the horizontals are level, and the verticals are straight up and down.

THE TILT

A tilt is a camera shot in which the camera angle is deliberately slanted to one side. This can be used for dramatic effect and helps portray unease, disorientation, frantic or desperate action, intoxication even madness

HEAD ROOM

This is the amount of space between the top of the subject's head and the top of the frame. A common mistake is to have too much or too little headroom. Too little can make the subject appear cramped in the frame and too much can make the frame appear unbalanced and bottom heavy. When interviewing a person there should be enough space around their head to look comfortable with the eyes in the top third of the screen.

EDGES ARE IMPORTANT

Look carefully at the edges of your frame. Don't have half objects in the frame, especially people as it becomes distracting. Try not to cut people off at their joints — the bottom of the frame can cut across a person's stomach, but not their knees. It just doesn't look right.