

INTERVIEW STRATEGIES

The choice of a location for the interview is a key decision for the filmmaker. There are two factors that need to be taken into account. First, it is important to choose a location where the interview subject will feel comfortable. Second, it is important to look at the background of the shot. Does it suit the story? Does it add to our understanding of the person? Does it suit the visual style of the film? Is there a noise problem?

There are three basic set-ups for filming an interview. The filmmaker needs to decide which one is best for their film.

SET-UP 1

The interview subject looks directly into the camera. This set-up gives the interview subject direct contact with the viewer creating honesty and the feeling that the subject is talking directly to the audience.

SET-UP 2

The interview subject looks just to one side of the camera and appears to be talking to an unseen person. This set-up tends to make the interview more relaxed, more informal and friendly.

SET-UP 3

Both the interviewer and the interview subject can be seen in the interview. This tends to be used in news interviews or when the interviewer is a well-known personality.