



KWN Video Tips

Script:

- Decide point of view (who is telling the story and what is their attitude about the subject)
- Don't use words if a picture tells the story
- Take viewer where the action is
- Dialogue should be realistic (the way people talk)
- Dialogue and narration should move the story along
- Use action verbs
- Use realistic details (clothes that fit time, set, character)
- Script should include description of set, location, props, costume
- Voiceover (V.O.) sets the scene, describes what has happened or is about to happen, explains how events are related
- Did you pull the viewer in ? Did you spark their interest to keep watching?
- Is there a clear ending where the problem is resolved?

Camera:

- Practice zoom, pan, tilt, floating without recording on the SD card
- Experiment with camera in different positions
- Use the tripod whenever possible. Hold steady by keeping elbow of your camcorder arm close to your body
- Use storyboards and shot list as a guide for shooting
- In your shot list, decide if the subject is still or moving – it will help you determine how to shoot your subject
- Practice moving with the camcorder rather than relying on zoom
- Check for continuity
- Angle of camera will influence the viewer, i.e., if you shoot from above, the subject can look smaller and helpless; if you shoot from below, the subject will look big and strong; if you shoot at eye level, the subject will look equal
- Before shooting, record with the lens cap on for thirty seconds
- For smoother edits, begin recording five seconds before an action shot or interview

**Helpful Hints:**

Kid Witness News teams should write a checklist for each shooting session to make sure everything they need is available and ready. Off-camera team members should test their equipment before shooting begins. A director or producer should ask for a sound check to make sure microphones are turned on. A producer should bring a shot list and check off each shot as it is completed.

A production coordinator should use a checklist to make sure all audio and video equipment, and power supplies, are properly connected and batteries are charged. The camera person checks to see if there is enough space remaining on the SD card.

More tips are available at: <http://kidsvid.4teachers.org/index.shtml>