

Michigan Virtual Guide to Filming at Home



Greetings! Here are some tips to follow for better results filming at home.

1. First, before you film, take a lens wipe or other soft cloth and wipe the lens of your camera. Throughout the day, your hand can leave little greasy smudges that can blur up your shots. The same goes for the camera on your laptop!
2. Avoid filming yourself with any bright lights or windows directly behind you or prominently in the background.
3. Position yourself so that the available light in the room is in front of you. If possible, film in front of a window and use as much natural light as possible.
4. Eliminate unnecessary noise by turning off any fans, heaters, or air conditioners that your microphone could pick up.
5. Pay attention to the background of your shot. Eliminate any clutter or unsightly objects. If possible, position yourself with a piece of art or a plant behind you.
6. If you're filming on your laptop, consider resting it on a stack of books or other object to raise the height of your camera. This will help avoid "up the nose" shots.
7. Unless you know your final format is vertical, like with Insta Stories, film with your camera in the landscape position (holding the phone horizontally). This gives a more suitable field of view for most applications!
8. When moving the camera in a pan or a tilt, move it much more slowly than you think you need to. It might feel a bit weird, but makes for a much better viewing experience.
9. When you answer a question, try to answer in a complete sentence. For example, if the question is "How long have you worked at X Organization?" your answer would be "I've worked at X Organization for 5 years," not just "5 years." Try to keep your replies concise and avoid rambling (unless the purpose is to have freeform discussion).
10. Try to cultivate a relaxed mindset. Some people find it helpful to get set up for recording at least 30 minutes before filming time. Think about what you want to say. Think about how you want to appear. If there is a script, use your time to become more comfortable with it. The key here is focusing on being as close to your comfort zone as possible! Happy filming!

These tips are only a basic starting point. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at hgaylord@michiganvirtual.org with any questions about your specific set-up!