

What you need:

- imagination
- video camera
- videotape

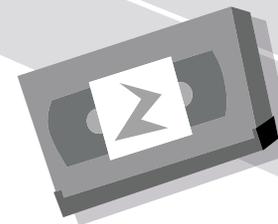
Home Videos



What you do:

- 1 Brainstorm ideas** about the subject and style for your video.
- 2 Calculate** how long each scene can be if the whole video is only **two minutes**. (That's the ZOOM limit.)
- 3 Write** down what you want people to say. Make sure any titles or captions are **easy to read** and leave enough time for the viewer to read each word twice.
- 4 Recruit a crew** that includes: a camera operator, actor(s), and someone to take care of sound, lighting, and props. In a pinch, **one person** can actually do all this.
- 5 Scout** out your shooting locations to see if they're **quiet**, have enough **light** and a good place to put the camera.
- 6 Rehearse** your video to make sure it's only two minutes and there aren't any funny shadows or objects in the background. **Experiment** with camera angles and different ways to follow the action.
- 7 Press** record and count to five before starting to shoot. If you need to re-shoot a scene, just **rewind** and start over. You can hit the "**pause**" button to avoid wasting tape.
- 8 Watch it** to find out if any part is too long, too dark, too noisy, or too shaky. Make sure you can hear the dialogue and read signs you made. If there's stuff you can do better **re-tape** it.
- 9 Make a copy** of your video to keep for yourself. **Run a cable** from your camera to a VCR. **Push PLAY** on the camera (where your original footage is) and **RECORD** on the VCR (where your blank tape is).
- 10 Throw your own movie premiere!** Invite some friends over, put on your fancy clothes, pop some popcorn, and show your movie. Pat yourself on the back-- **you're a star!**

Make a
Video for
ZOOM!



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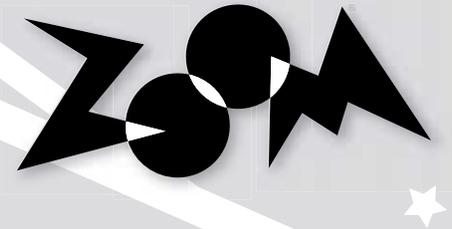
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Home Videos

Tips from the Pros



★ Camera Tips:

Decide which **special effects** you want to use. To focus, use automatic focus or zoom all the way in, **focus** on an object, and then **zoom** back out. Read your owners manual.

★ Lighting Tips:

If it's **too dark** in the viewfinder (the eye piece), it's too dark to see. **Add** some lamp or sunlight--but not too much. Strong **light** will also make the picture dark in the viewfinder.

★ Sound Tips:

- ★ To do a **sound check**, shoot the actors saying lines. Play back the video you just shot right in the camera by listening to it with headphones. Be sure you **hear** dialogue **clearly**.
- ★ If you shoot inside, find a room off a **quiet** hallway. Use a room with a carpeted floor (or put a rug or blanket on the floor to **muffle the echo**.) Close the door.
- ★ **Post signs** outside the room asking people to be quiet or have someone guard **against loud** voices and footsteps. Shoot your video when there aren't many people around.

- ★ If you shoot outside, microphones can pick up the **wind**. It sounds like static from a radio. Do a sound check. If you hear loud wind noise, **shoot inside** until the wind stops.
- ★ While shooting, **turn off** air conditioners, televisions, telephones, computers, or anything else that **makes noise** including watches that beep.
- ★ Your camera probably has a built-in **microphone**. Point the camera directly at the person who is **speaking** and keep the camera no more than three to five feet away.

Try These
Tricks of
the Trade

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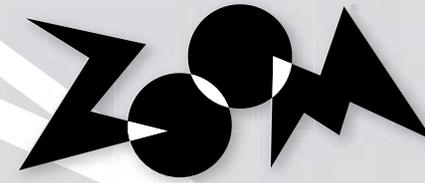
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Send it to:

ZOOM
Box 350
Boston, MA 02134

Home Videos



Ideas for Inspiration:

- ★ **Document** your family, a day at school, your pets, or your life.
- ★ Sell a **fake product**.
- ★ **Interview** your classmates or your friends.
- ★ Demonstrate an **amazing science** experiment.
- ★ Share your hobby, your room, or any **cool thing** you can do.
- ★ Describe your most **embarrassing** moment.
- ★ Make a **mouthwatering** recipe.
- ★ **Act out** a short original drama.

Video Requirements for ZOOM:

- 1 Mail the **original tape** (no copies) **labeled** with your name, address, and title of your video.
- 2 Protect your tape with **lots of padding** when you mail it.
- 3 Use any video **format** (VHS, 3/4 inch, Beta, Hi-8, mini-DV, and DVD.)
- 4 Limit the video length to **less than two** minutes.
- 5 **Film** a few seconds of **black** between videos on your tape (if you make more than one.)
- 6 Cover or **remove any logos**, brand names, or other images that are copyrighted (such as the Nike® Swoosh.)
- 7 Keep your videos **G-rated** (no violence, bad language, sex, smoking or drugs.)
- 8 Turn-off the **timestamp** option if your camera has one.
- 9 Speak in **any language** (sign language too) and include a written translation in English.
- 10 Do a **sound check** to make sure you can hear the dialogue clearly on your videotape.
- 11 Make sure you can **see** what you're filming **clearly** in the viewfinder.

Star In
Your Own
Movie!

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The Arthur
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