



"Our Town "

Tips for Video Shooting

It's wonderful to be part of an energetic and committed team, especially when it involves your neighbors and friends. What better way to nurture a sense of belonging and pride in your community than telling others why it's such a special place? This project capitalizes on both your enthusiasm and knowledge of the Johnsonburg area.

To help you tell the story more effectively we've asked our videographers at WPSU to share some of their secrets and strategies for successful videotaping. Here are their tips:

- If possible, change the setting on your video camera to Widescreen (16x9) instead of Full screen (4x3).
- Scope out a scene before starting to record it. Then develop a plan and see which vantage points provide the best views. All shots should be 10 seconds long or more. And the more shots from different angles, the better.
- Use a tripod when possible. Even in this day of MTV, nobody likes to watch rocky and unstable images. When a tripod isn't available use other solid objects to stabilize the shot -- lean against trees, set your camera on a table top, or even sit in a chair and use the armrest to help make the picture steadier.
- Don't move with the camera. Professionals even find this difficult. They usually use specialized equipment to help them make moves and panning your camera can sometimes create problems when we edit the video. Smooth panning or a series of still shots will work better. Let things move in the picture instead of the camera moving.
- Whenever possible move closer to you subject instead of zooming in on it.
- Make sure that your camera is level and the scene looks straight in the view finder
- If you plan to interview someone do so in a quiet setting and make sure that the camera is with-in 3-4 feet of your person. Use an external microphone when available
- Shoot a sequence of shots rather than long shots that depend on camera movement like zooms and pans. To create more visual excitement for your shots try shooting from a variety of angles or perspectives. Remember,

these tapes will be edited. Separate still shots from various angles can be linked together.

- When shooting inside try to use areas that are well lit. Avoid shooting a person that has bright light in the background, such as a window.
- Detail shots are especially powerful when edited into a series, they provide the viewer with unique visual information and they can have high emotional impact. Don't be afraid to get close.
- Faces. People make the greatest subjects. No matter what you're shooting don't forget to videotape people as well. Whether they are observing or active participants.
- Many cameras include a feature that imprints the date and time of a recording on the videotape. Please turn this feature off.

Important: Make sure to fill out and hand in a log sheet with your tape. They should list the sequence of shots and accurately describe any locations or persons that need to be identified.

Finally, give some thought about the significance of your topic and why you chose it. At the end of the day we will tape a short interview with each of you and include it in the program. We hope you are as excited about making this program as we are to help you.

Fun and hard work are not mutually exclusive. Your energy and creativity will create a testimony not only of your town, but also of yourselves. Good luck and thanks for joining us!

