

Smartphone Filmmaking

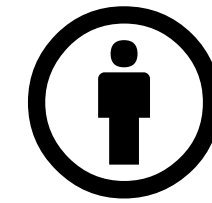
# Documentary Films



# Using These Slides

The slides are available for you to download, reference, translate, and reuse.

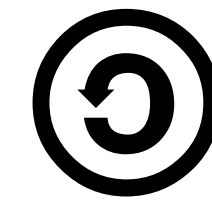
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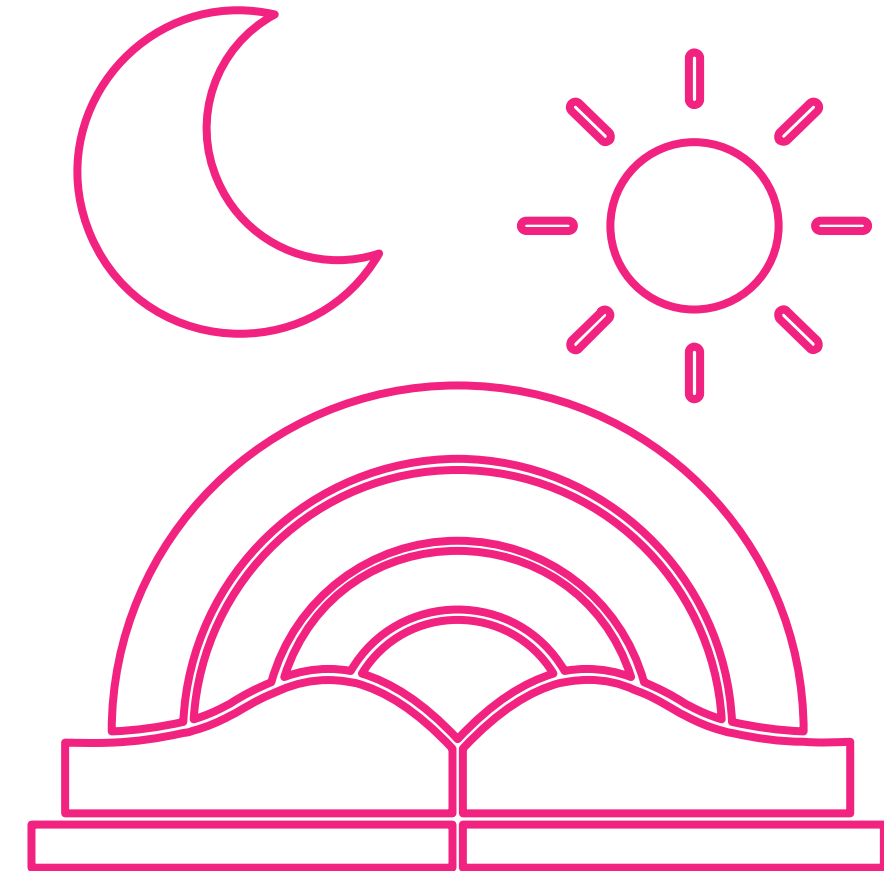


# Documentary Story Structure

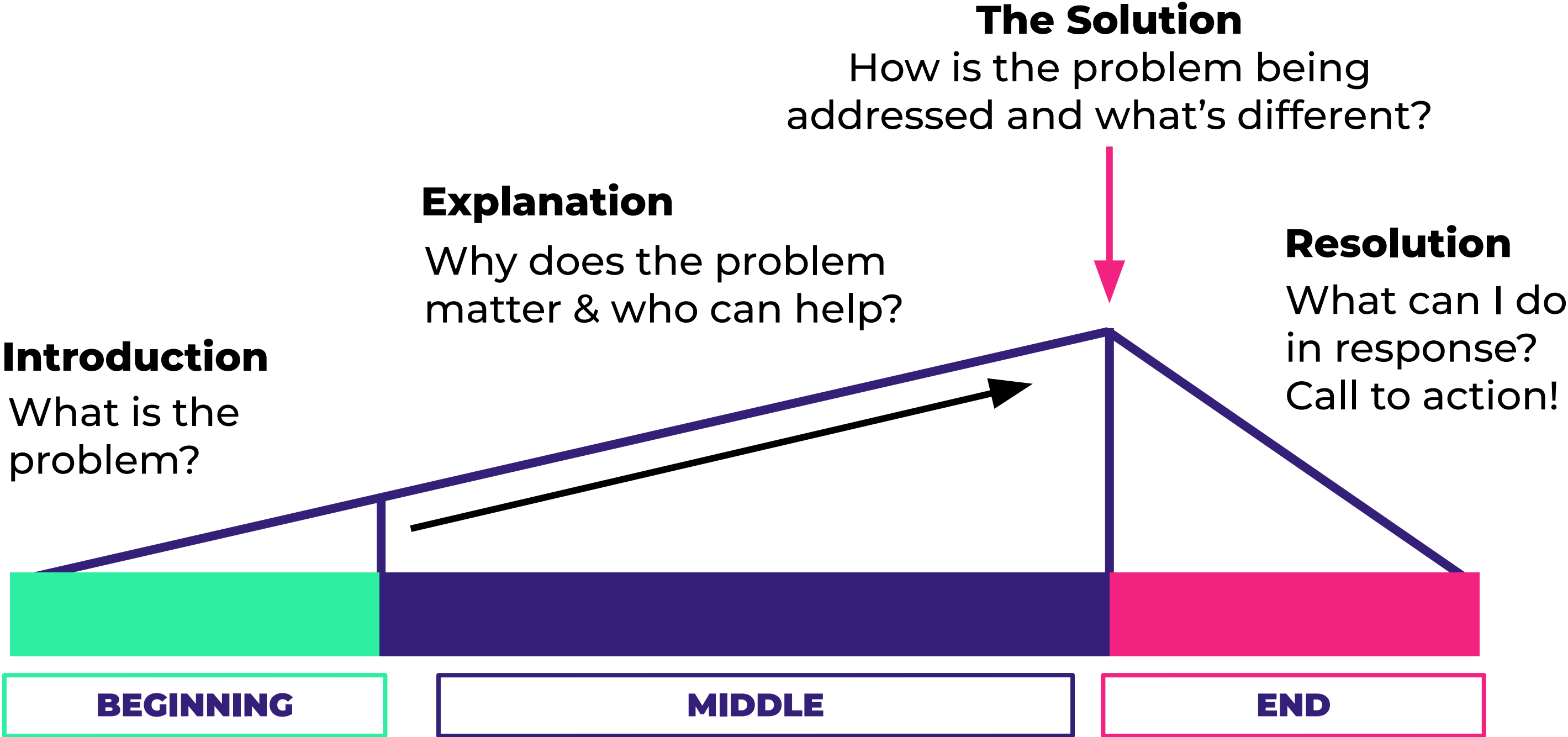


# Story Structure

Every story has a beginning, middle and end.



# Documentary Story Structure



# Watch

## Beauty Can Heal the Land

A documentary from Senegal about God's redeeming work through farming.



FILE | Beauty Can Heal The Land.mp4



This story shows us that beauty not only enriches our land, but also our lives. KomLaVie impacts the world by showing God's love through beauty. A powerful and encouraging appeal to the West-African community to treasure beauty everywhere we go and cultivate it!

The video is mainly used online for Beersheba and the Senegalese church body to look at the world around them in a different way. It's full of opportunities to witness to non believers in a creative way.

**Ewien van Bergeijk**

Producer/Editor



# What is the problem?

Waste is everywhere, people don't care.



**BEGINNING**



# Why does the problem matter & who can help?

It matters because people do not see the value in things that are ugly.  
KomLaVie can help as he works in Beersheba's garden.



**MIDDLE**

# How is the problem being addressed and what's different?

The garden reflects the beauty of God and creates a space that people can connect with Him.



**THE SOLUTION**

# What can I do in response?

You can “make the continent more beautiful” and see the value and potential God provided all around you.



**END**

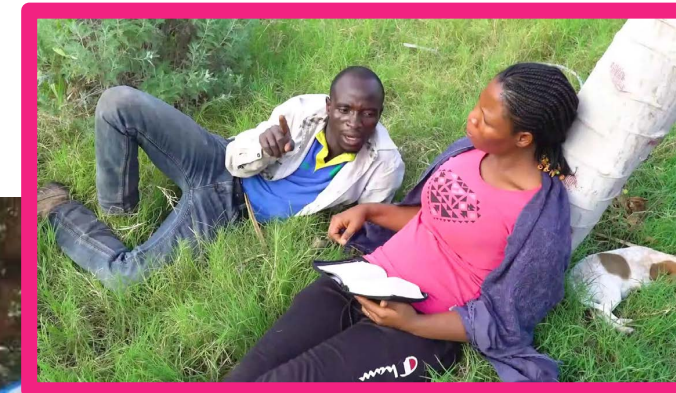
Develop several interview questions for **each part** of the video.



**BEGINNING**

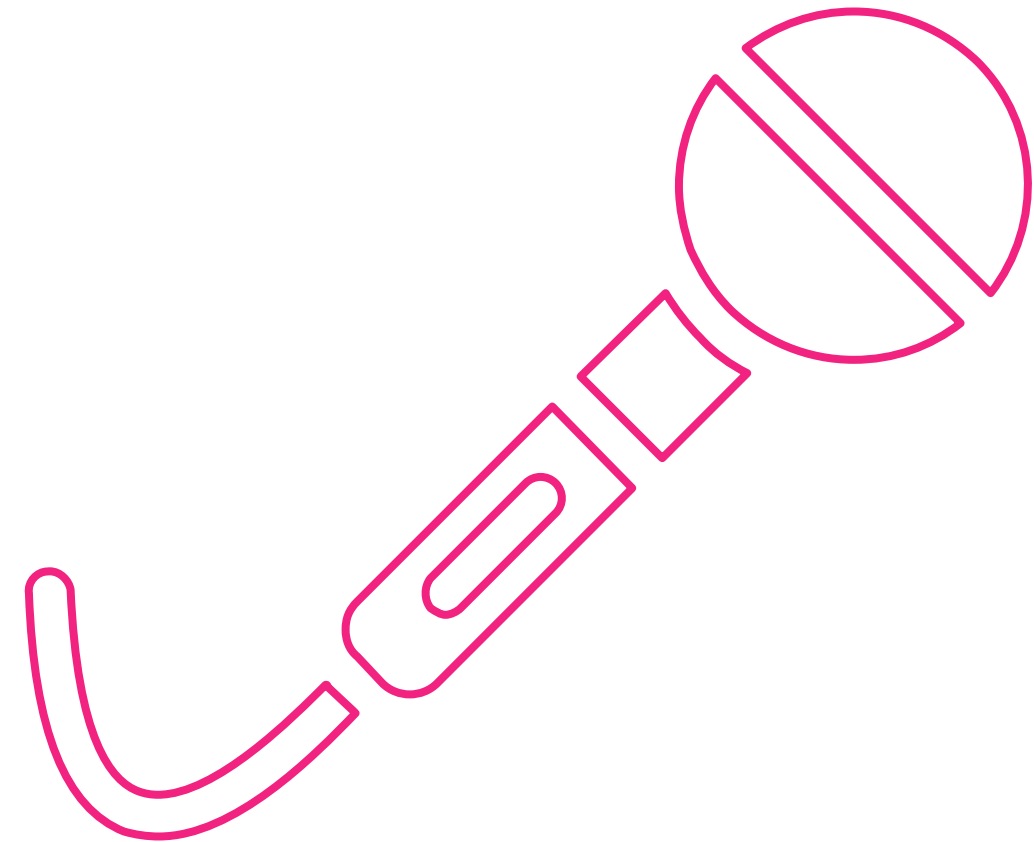


**MIDDLE**



**END**

Fill in missing parts  
of the story with a  
**voice over** when  
editing.




The b-roll images should be **relevant** to what the speaker is saying.



Make a **list** of the  
b-roll needed to tell  
your story.





"If my people, who are called by My name, will humble  
themselves and pray and seek my face ....  
I will forgive their sin and HEAL their land "

Let us all look for BEAUTY everywhere we go  
and CULTIVATE it!

2021 | BEERSHEBAPROJECT.ORG

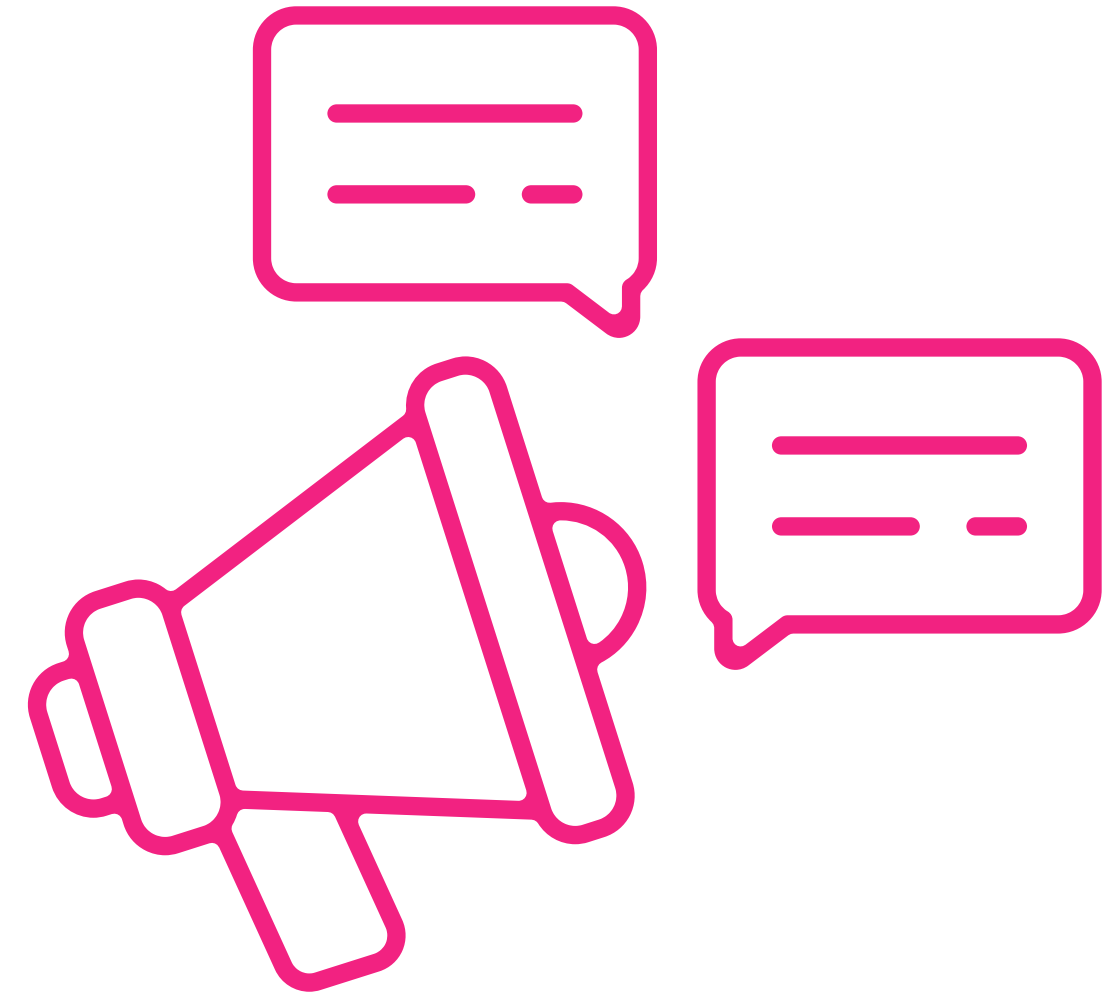
b-twienCLICKS  
film & photo

Your video will have more impact when you suggest what viewers can **do** after watching the video.



# Call to Action

A text, link, or message at the end of your video that encourages your audience to **do something** after watching.



What do you want the audience to **do** after they watch your video?

- Discussion question
- Learn more
- Message someone
- Watch another video
- Share the video
- Comment



# Watch

## Unseen Wounded

A documentary from Thailand about a woman helping children caught in sex trafficking.



FILE | Unseen Wounded.mp4



Unseen Wounded was produced by Create and made in conjunction with a few other short-form documentaries. The package, called God's Goodness, was given to local churches in Chiang Mai **to help mobilize their congregation into doing good works in their city** - to encourage them to spread God's grace not only through their words but also through their actions. Additionally, it was intended to show that "everyday" Christians could make a difference, that it wasn't only a "special" kind of person, or their leaders, that were called to do big things on behalf of the Kingdom.

**Keegan West**

Producer

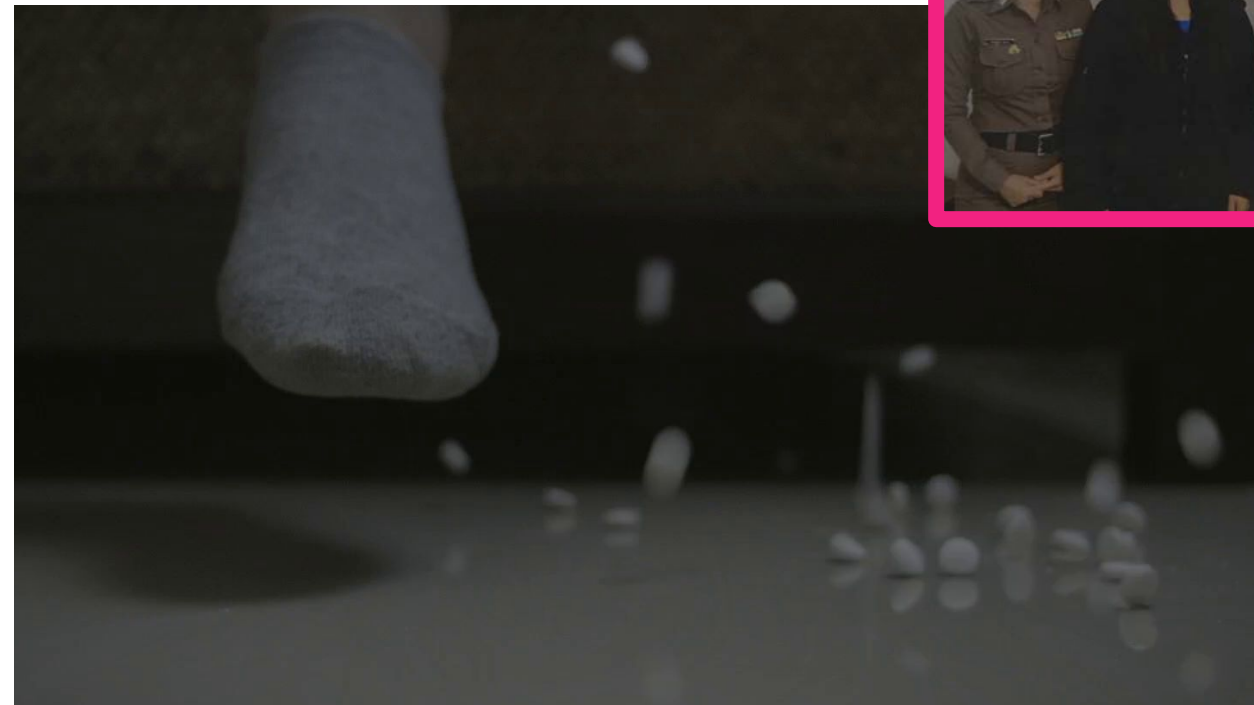




## BEGINNING

### What is the problem?

A woman notices an issue in her city, but doesn't know what to do.



## MIDDLE

### Why does the problem matter?

It matters because these children need help.



## END

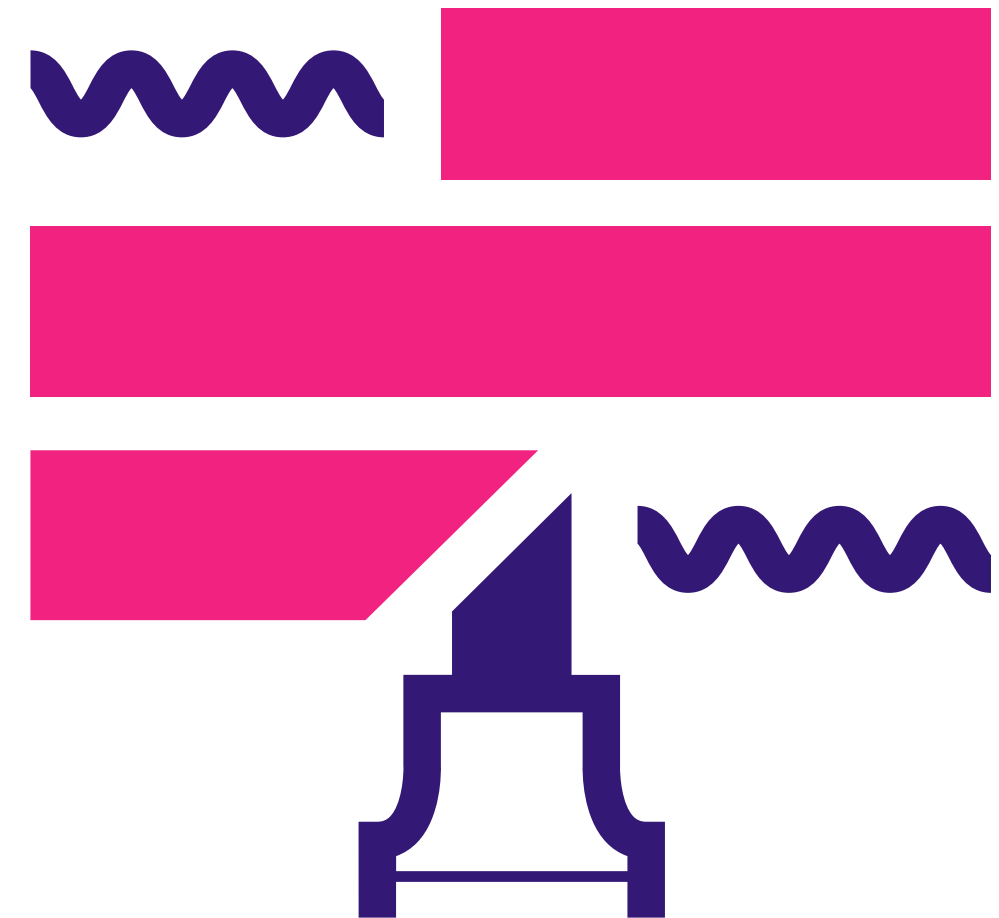
### What can I do in response?

God can use you too!

### How is the problem being resolved?

God provides!  
Financially,  
relationships  
with police, etc.

Highlight the **parts** of a story that align with the needs of your audience or the message you want to share.





Dramatize **visual** parts of the interview with reenactments.

# Watch

## Afar Prayer Video

A mobilization video for the Afar people group. Featuring a voice over script.



FILE | Afar.mp4





A documentary/prayer video to mobilize Christians to pray for and go to the Afar people in the Horn of Africa. Pray that Jesus (The Way, The Truth, and The Life), would be revealed to them, and that they would respond to His calling.

**Joy Jun**

Videographer/Editor





## BEGINNING

### What is the problem?

The Afar people live in a spiritual desert.



## MIDDLE

### Why does the problem matter?

It matters because God loves these people!



## END

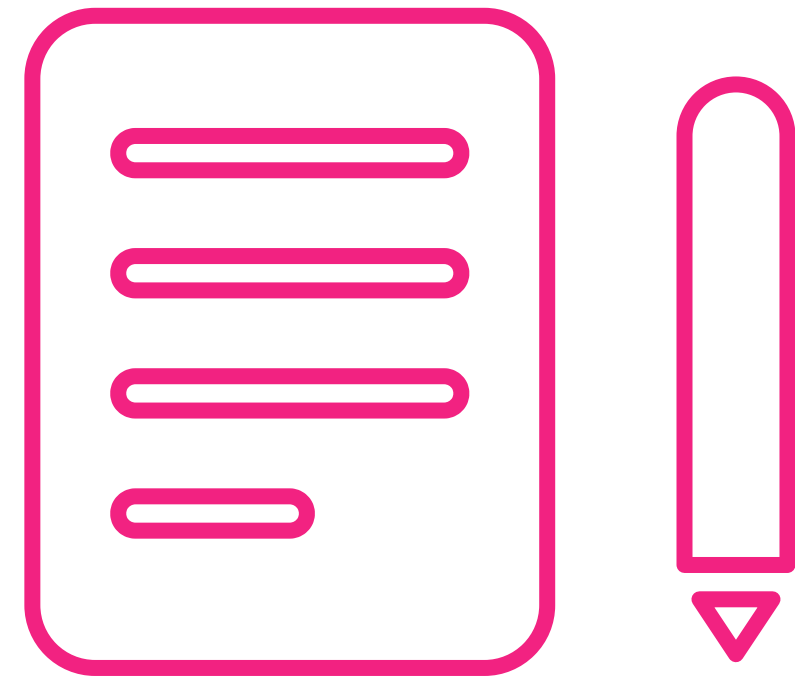
### How is the problem being resolved?

God needs to you to go, they are unreached.

### What can I do in response?

Pray for the Afar, learn more about them, GO.

Research your subject and write a **voice over** narration instead of using interviews.





# THE LIFE

*No one comes to the Father  
except through me.*

Use text and still photos to  
**enhance** your story.



Film can bring us up close and create **empathy** for people far away.

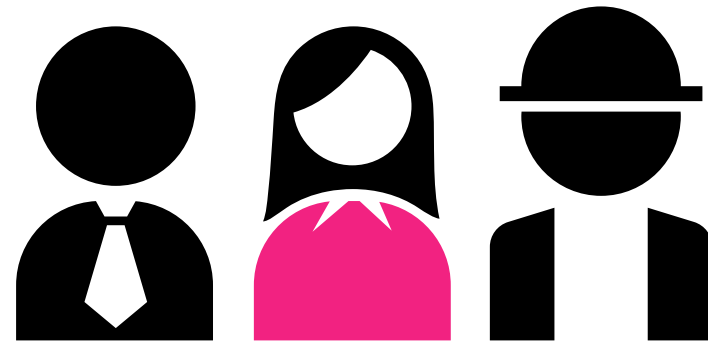
# Choosing a Subject



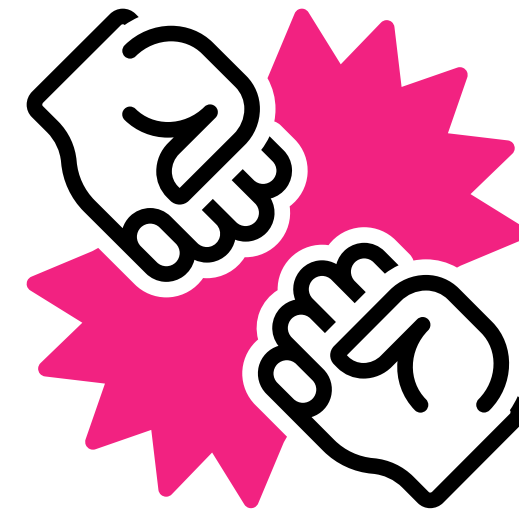
# A documentary **is**...



**A Story**

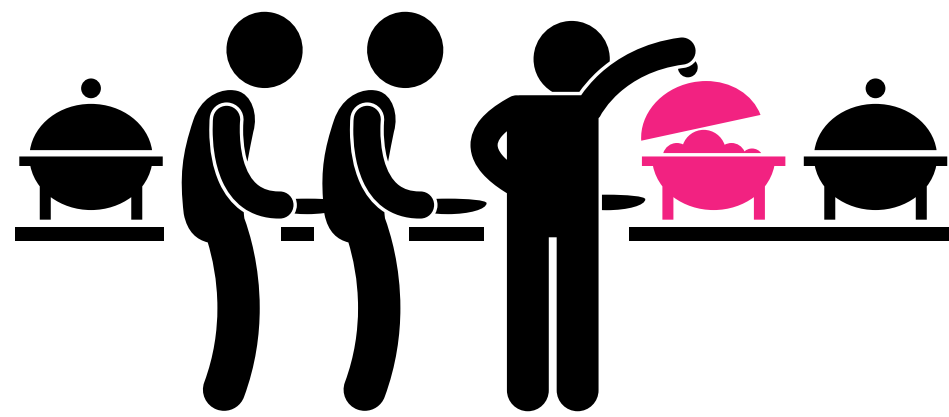


**about  
people**



**facing a  
challenge.**

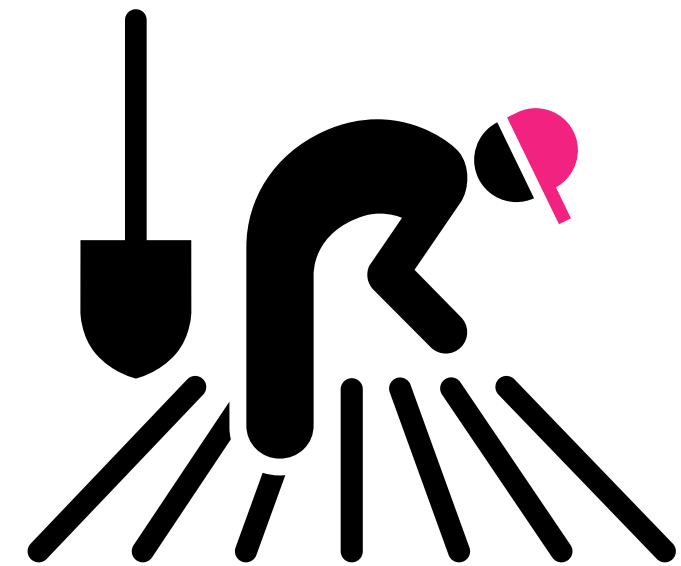
A documentary is **not**...



**An event**



**an organization  
or ministry**



**or what you  
are doing.**



A documentary is about...

**WHY?**

# What is the **reason**?



Why is this guy here?  
What's his story?



Why does your  
ministry exist?



Who is impacted  
by your work?

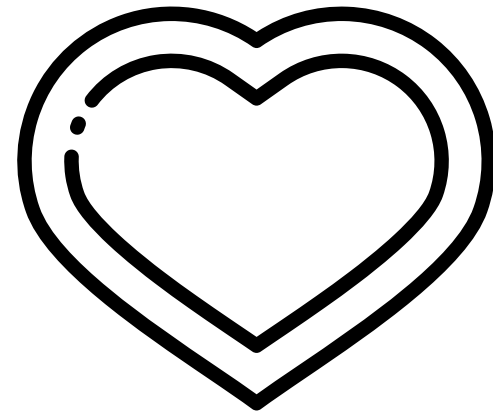
Dig deeper. Find the story.  
Tell me why it matters.



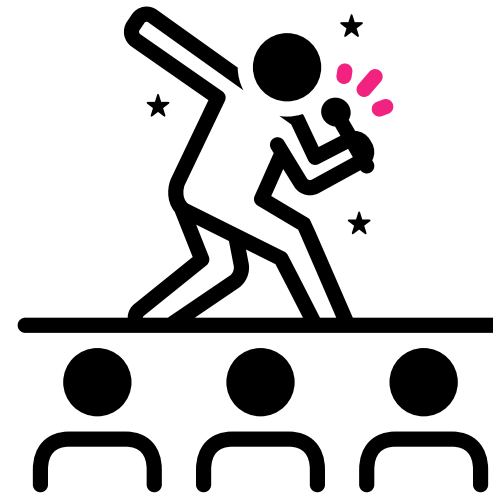
# A **good** documentary will...



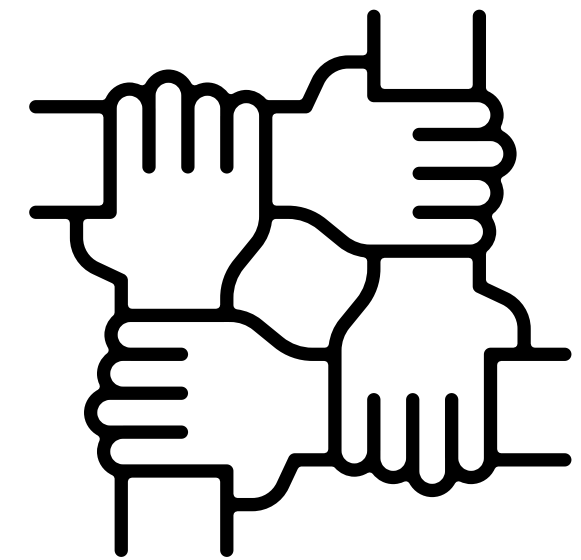
**Educate**



**Build  
Empathy**



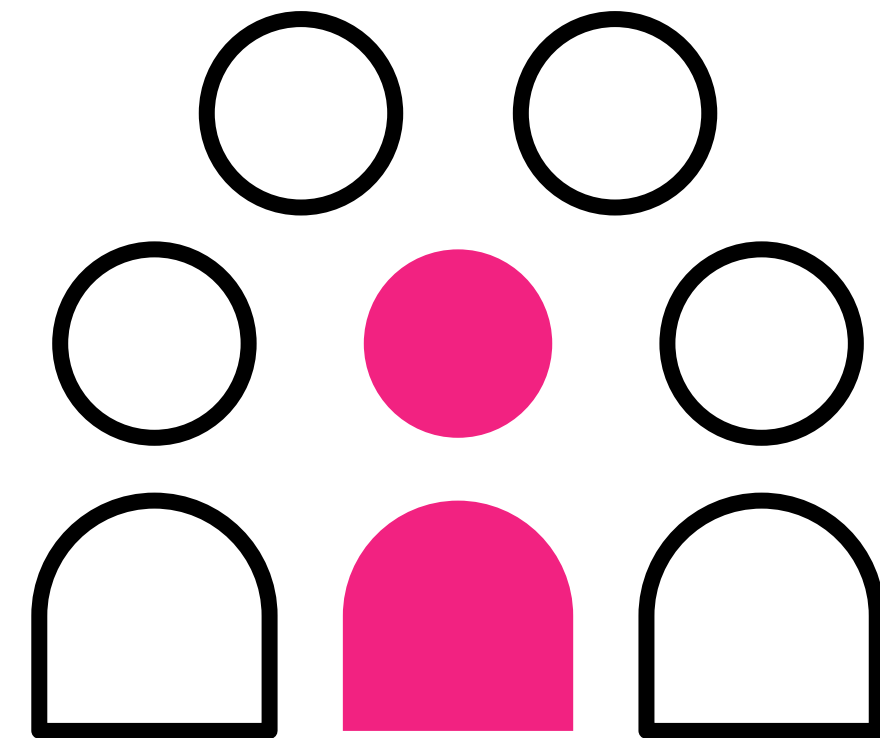
**Entertain**



**Encourage  
Participation**

# Think about your **audience.**

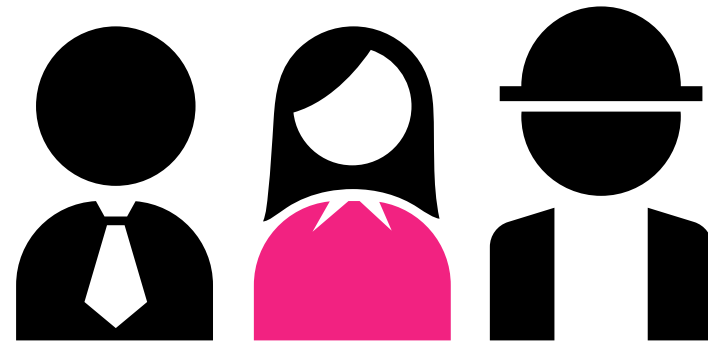
- What story will connect with them? Narrow your focus.
- What do you want them to do afterwards?
- What subject can they identify with and relate to?



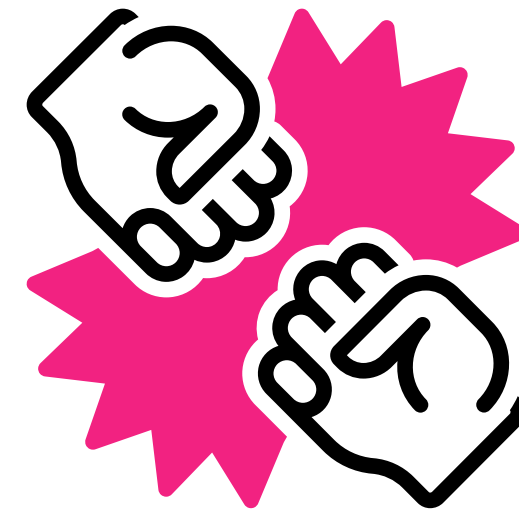
# A documentary **is**...



**A Story**



**about  
people**



**facing a  
challenge.**



# Example Documentaries

**Group Activity**

# Examples

Watch a few documentaries from the list below that you think would be relevant to your audience. Choose one and discuss the story structure of that video with your group.



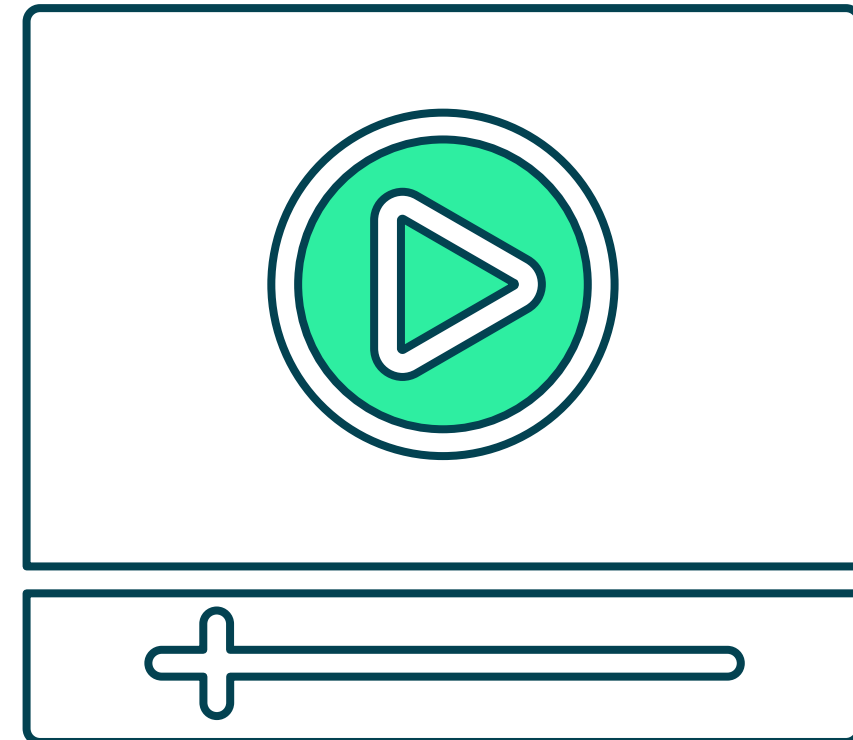




## Example Documentaries

# Discussion Questions

1. What was the structure (beginning, middle, and end) of the video?
2. Who do you think is the intended audience for the video? How did the video communicate to that audience?
3. What b-roll was used and how did it contribute to the story?
4. Why do you think the specific story or interview was chosen? What was compelling about it?
5. What was the call to action?





## Sick in Africa

### Educational Documentary

"Reverse the Curse", episode 2 in the Sick in Africa healthcare series focusing on the Yawo of Mozambique shares the story of Mama Lucia and her epileptic son Shukarani. She believes her son is unwell because of a curse that her husband said before their child was born.



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Learn More: [expatmediapro.com/sickinafrica](https://expatmediapro.com/sickinafrica)



## A New World

### Documentary Example

A short documentary about a man who helps recently released prisoners adjust to life in their new world. The film was given to local churches in Chiang Mai to help mobilize their congregation into doing good works in their city.



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Learn More on [Facebook](#)



## Ending Bible Poverty Fundraising Documentary

A documentary explaining the need for Bible translation in small West African languages and what a YWAM team in Togo is doing about it. This film was used to raise awareness of Bible poverty and funds for their translation efforts.



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Learn More at [jemnoepe.com](http://jemnoepe.com)



# No Longer a Victim

## Documentary Example

This story is focused on Chek, one of the employees of "Cambodian Harvest" a factory which employs landmine accident survivors, begun by an Australian grandmother named Marion Fromm. This series of stories was intended to inspire believers, wherever they might live.



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Learn More at [cambodianharvestv3.webnode.page](http://cambodianharvestv3.webnode.page)



# A Life Worth Living

## Testimony Example

Jade and her mother both fight a battle with cancer. For Jade, faith makes a difference. *A Life Worth Living* was part of a series of testimony videos produced for a series called "Find Yourself in the Story" produced by Create Emerge for a missions mobilization event called GO FEST.





## That's Not Success

### Stylized Interview / Testimony

A rapper from Myanmar explains how his life changed after coming to faith in Christ. This film is used in social media campaigns to share the gospel online with people in Myanmar.



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Learn More at [youtube.com/@hmyawlintyarlan](https://youtube.com/@hmyawlintyarlan)



# Cooking with Moringa

## Instructional Video

Joy teaches on the health benefits of the moringa leaf and shows how it can be used in an everyday recipe. An instructional video like this can be used in community development.







# Outline Your Documentary

**Group Activity**

## PART 1

# Choose Your Subject

Discuss who or what should be the subject of your documentary.

Refer to your notes from the Define Your Audience Activity.  
Think about the following questions...





## Choose Your Subject

# Considerations

1. Do you know any stories, testimonies, or subjects that correspond to the needs of your audience? (If so take a moment to summarize those stories in the group).
2. What stories do you have the most easy access to?
3. What subjects can you speak about with authority or first-hand knowledge?
4. What parts of the story do you want to tell that will most resonate with your audience?
5. What stories are most visual and would lend themselves to good b-roll?
6. How can your documentary build bridges from what your audience already knows about God and take them deeper in their understanding?

## PART 2

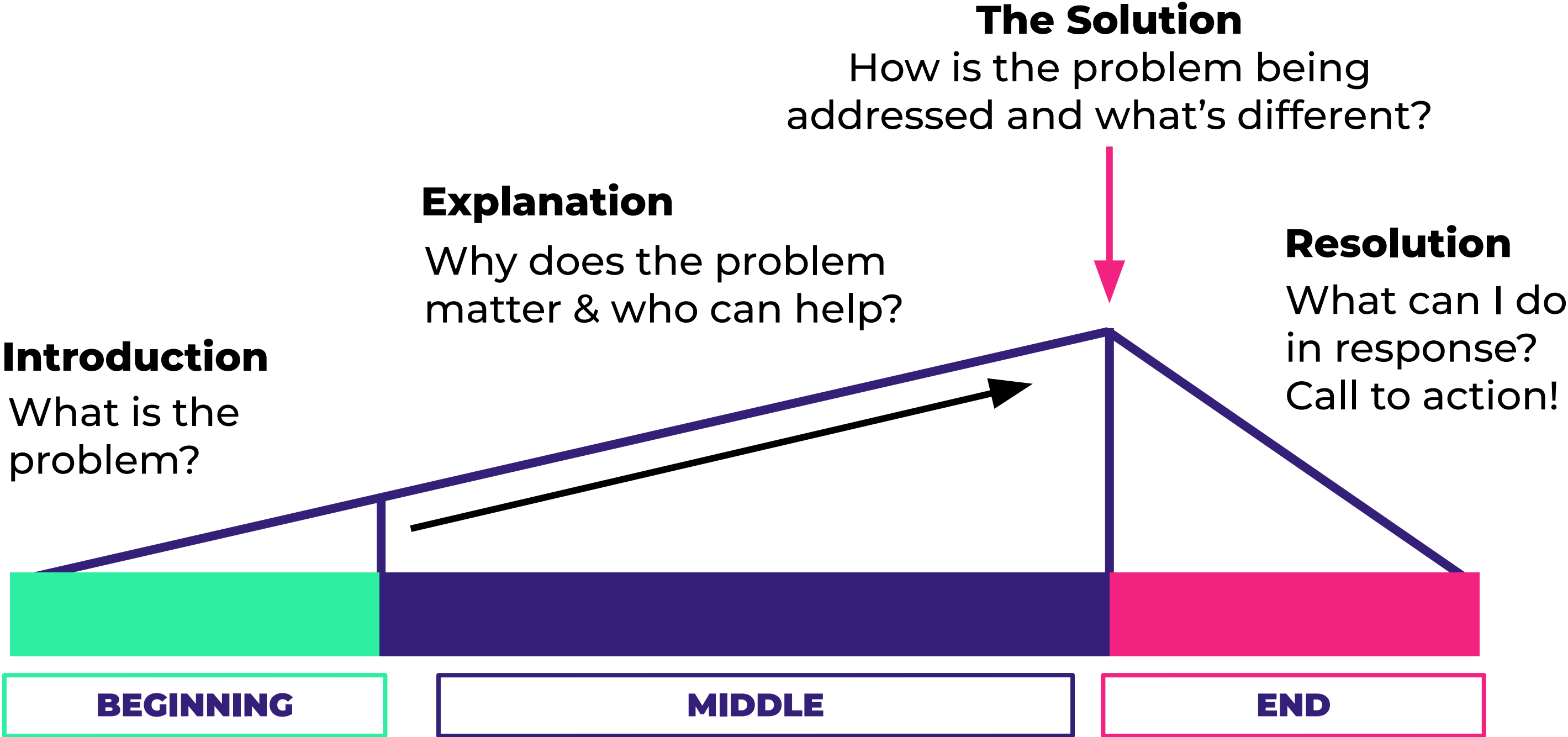
# Outline the Documentary

Use the story structure diagram to outline your documentary. Write a brief description for each section.

Remember to think visually!



# Documentary Story Structure



## **PART 3**

# **\*Write Your Questions**

Write 3 to 4 interview questions you would like to ask for the beginning, middle, solution, and end of your documentary.

**\*If you are producing a voice over documentary, write your voice over script.**



# Preparing for the Interview



When you are editing on a smartphone **shorter** video files are better.

How can you make sure your subject is **ready** before the camera records?





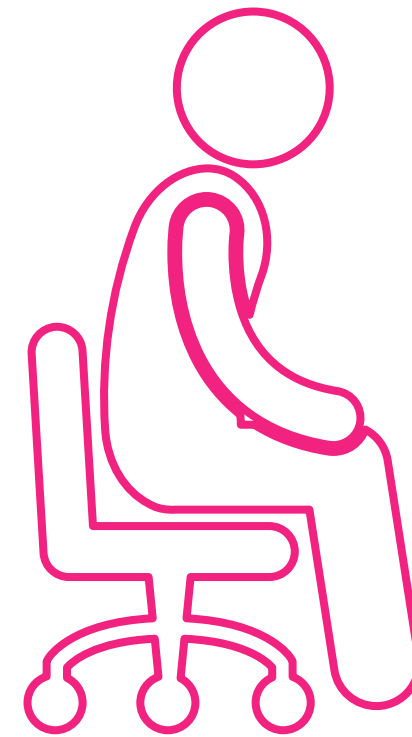


Interview the subject **off camera** first and decide what you will record.



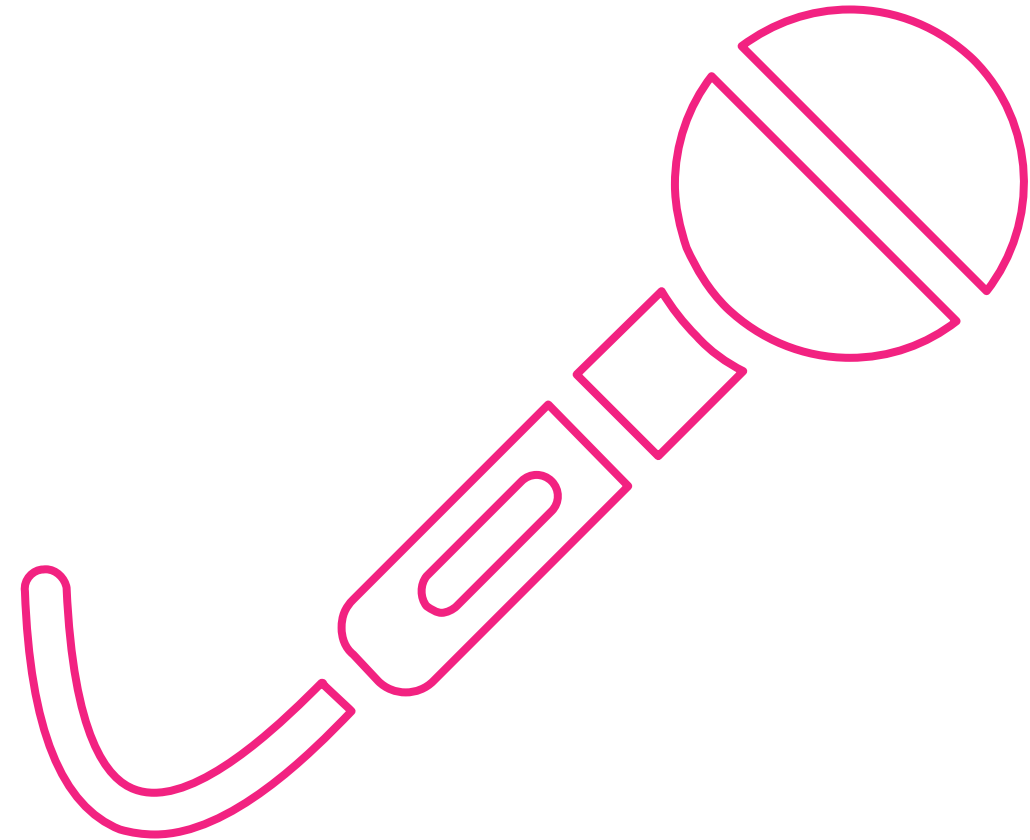


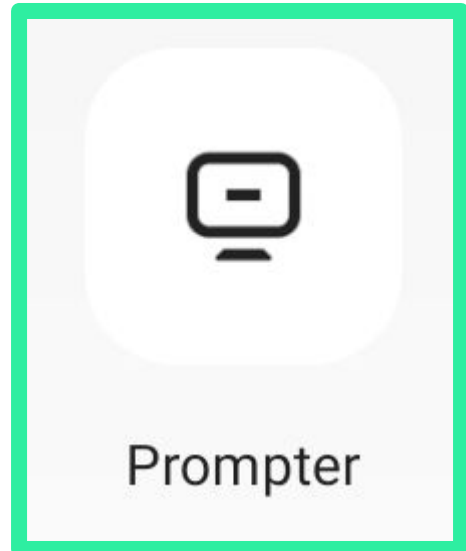
**Review** the questions with the subject before you shoot.





Consider turning your interview into a **voice over script** and only have your subject read it.



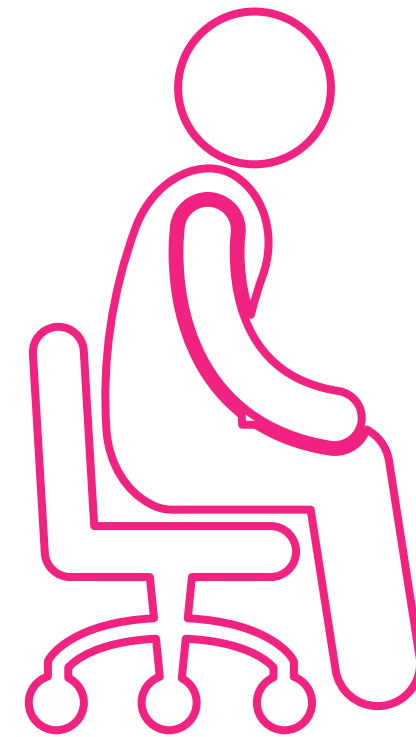


Use the **Prompter** feature inside of CapCut if you'd like to record your text while looking at the camera.





If the answer is too long  
ask the subject to **repeat**  
the answer, but shorter.



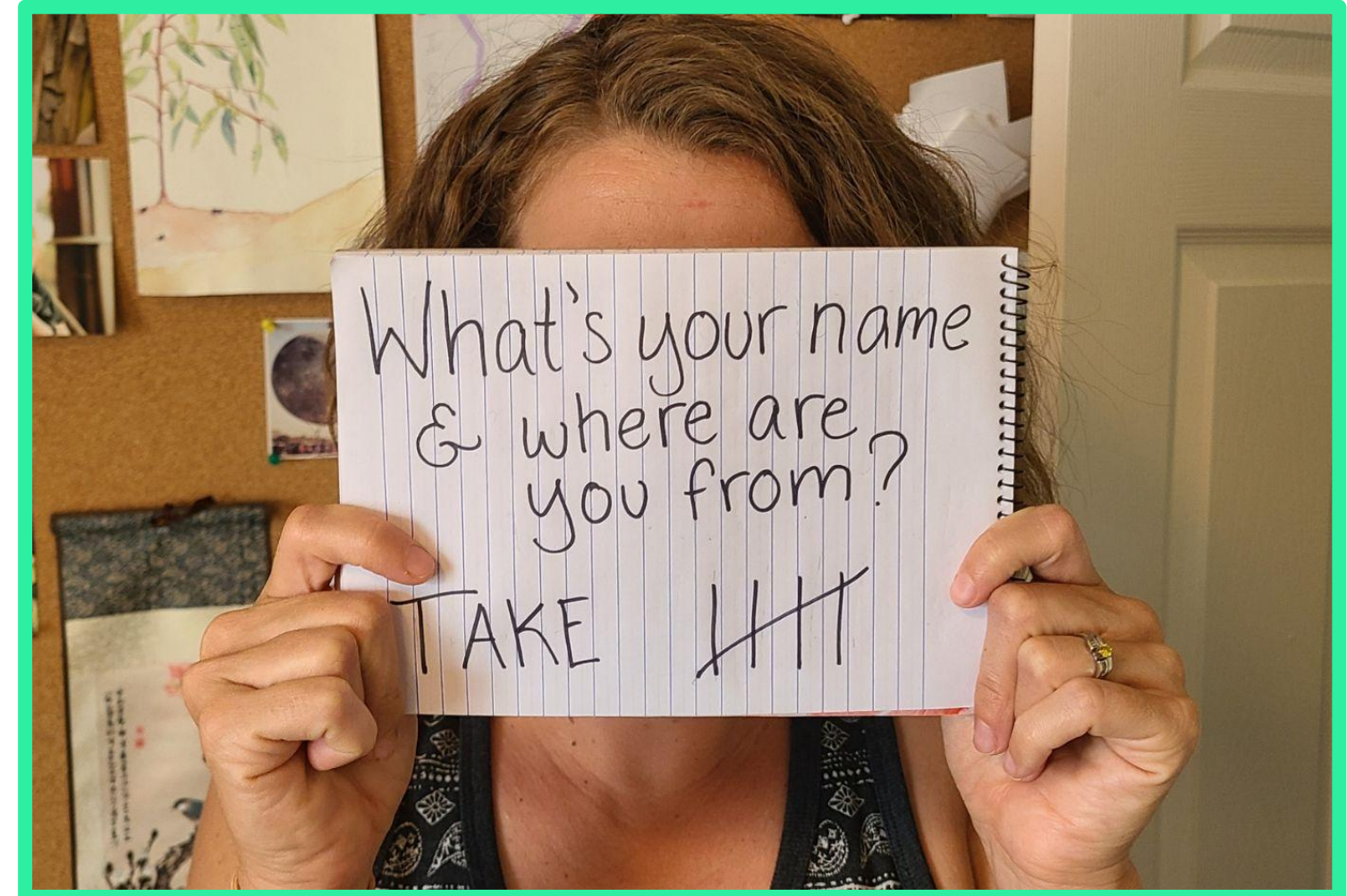
Ask the talent to **repeat the question** in their answer. You will not hear the question in the final video.



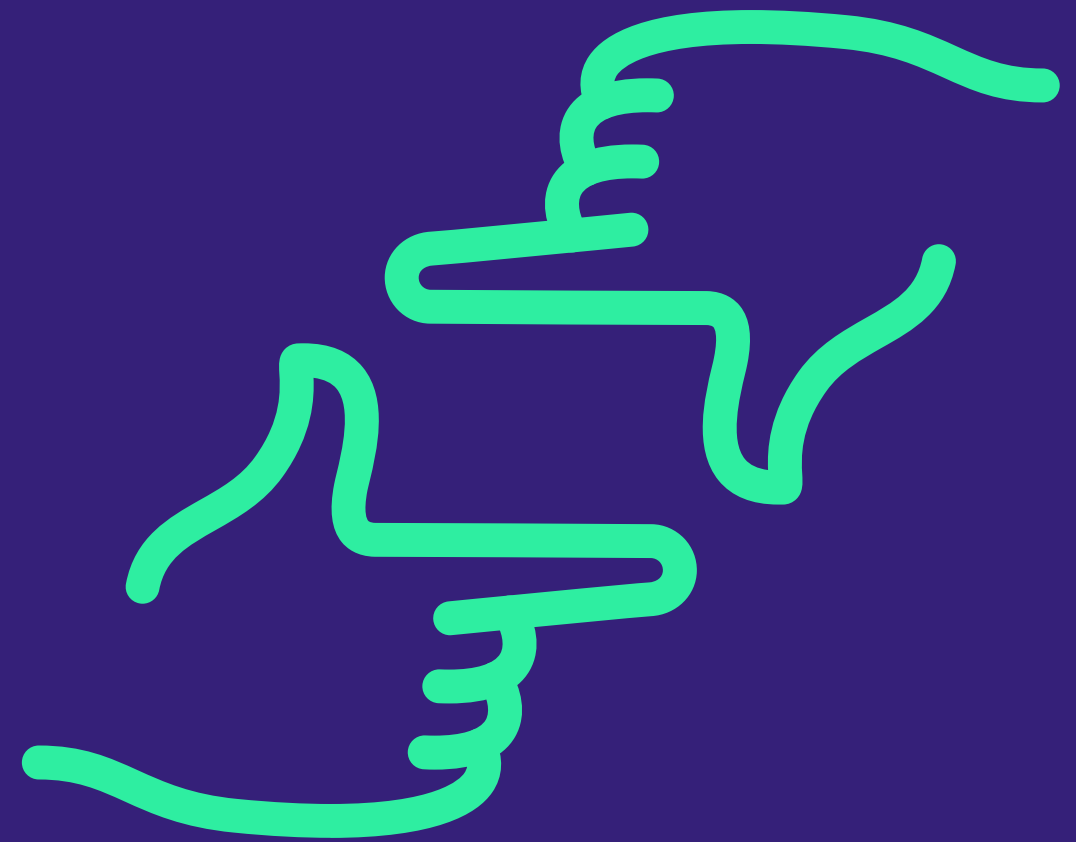
Hold a **sheet of paper** in front of the camera that has the question written on it.

This will help you identify questions quickly when editing.

**Start and stop** recording between takes.



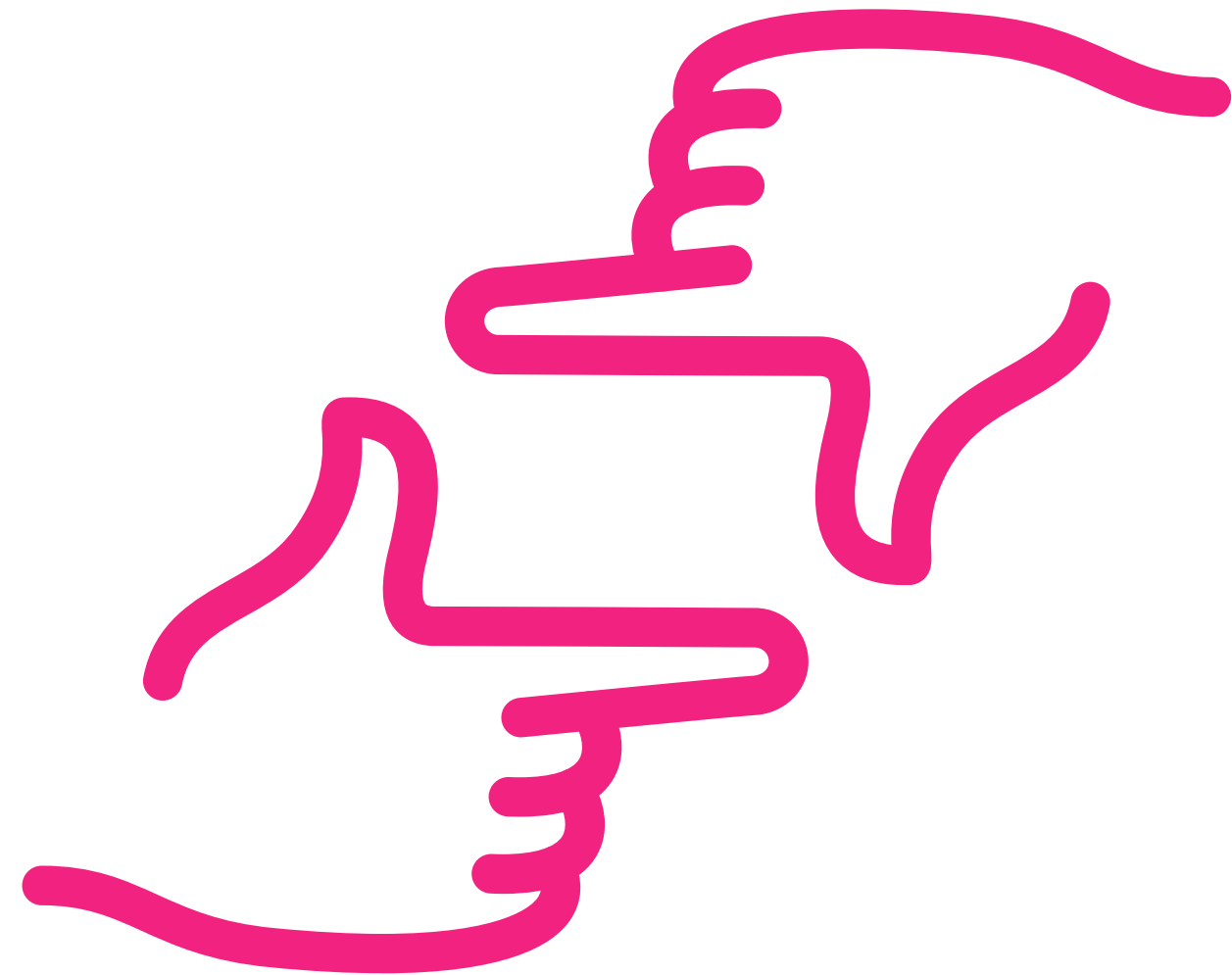
# Interview Composition





# Composition

How we **arrange** people or objects within our shot.



An interview  
has a **standard**  
composition.



# Two ways to compose an interview

## Scripted Interview



Centered  
Talking to Camera

## Question Based Interview



Off Center  
Talking Off Screen

# Common Interview Shot Types

Most Common



Close Up

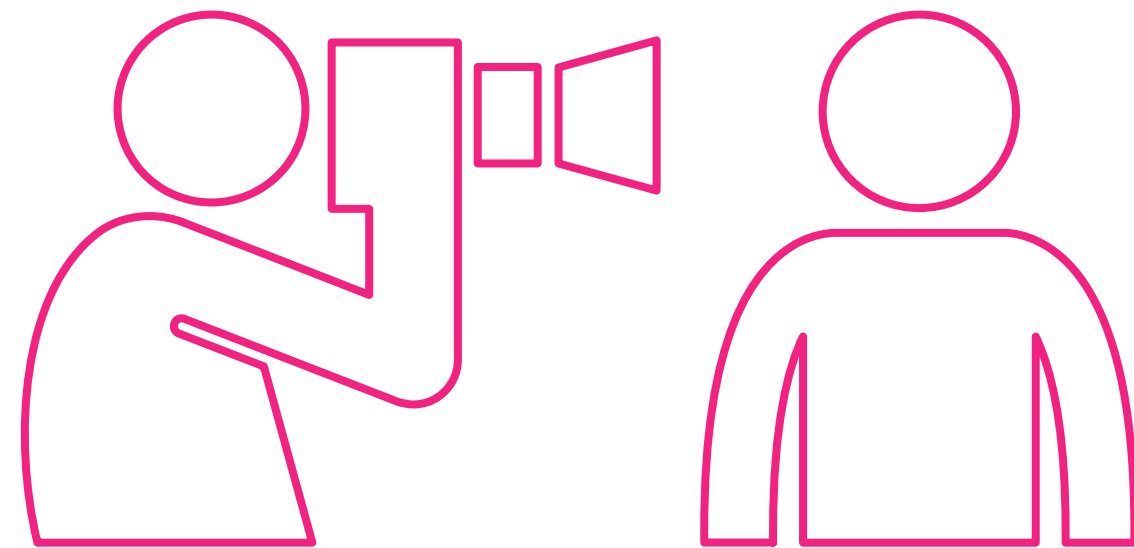


Medium Close Up



Medium

The camera should be at **eye level** with your subject.





**✘ Too High**



**✘ Too Low**



✓ **Eye Level**



# Having the camera too high or low changes the mood.



Camera too high  
Looks like subject is afraid



Camera too low  
Looks like subject is scary

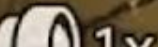
Place the camera on a **tripod or stool** to prevent shaking.



# Headroom

The **space** between the top of the frame and the subject's head.





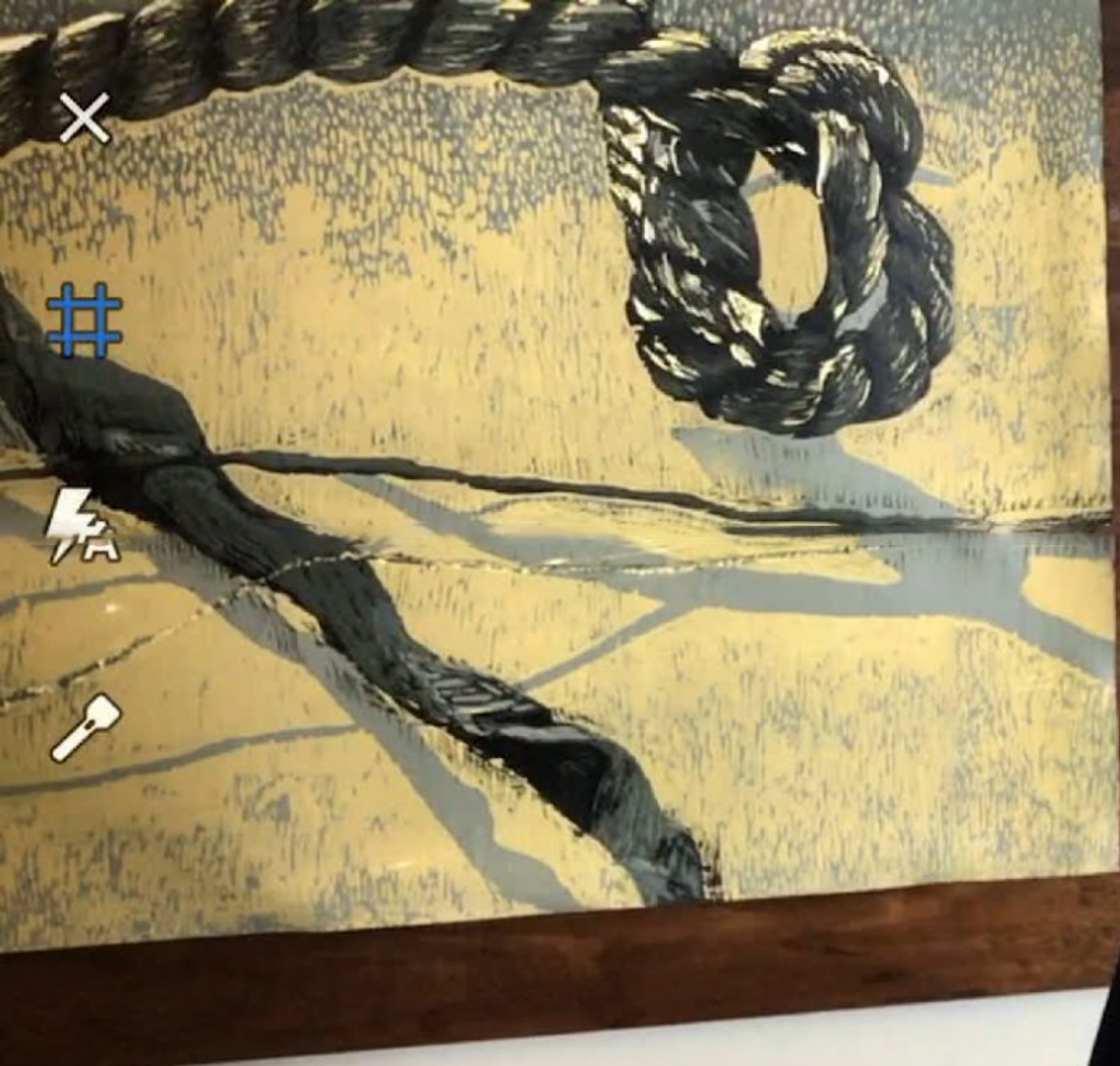
AUTO



PRO



**Too Much Headroom**



**✘ Too Little Headroom**



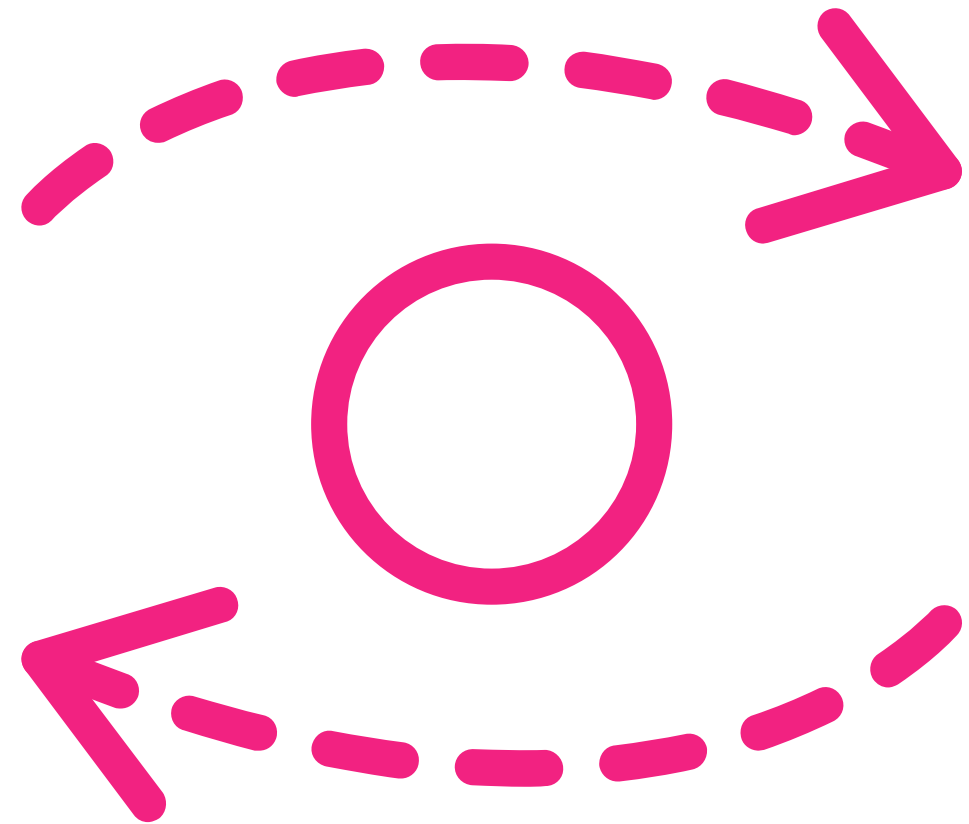
AUTO  
PRO



**Good Headroom**

## Eye Line

The **direction** your subject's eyes are looking.



The subject's eyes should look towards the **empty space** in the shot.





Place the person asking the questions **beside** the camera.

Have the subject look at them.



We should see **both** of the subject's eyes.



We do not want to look at ears!



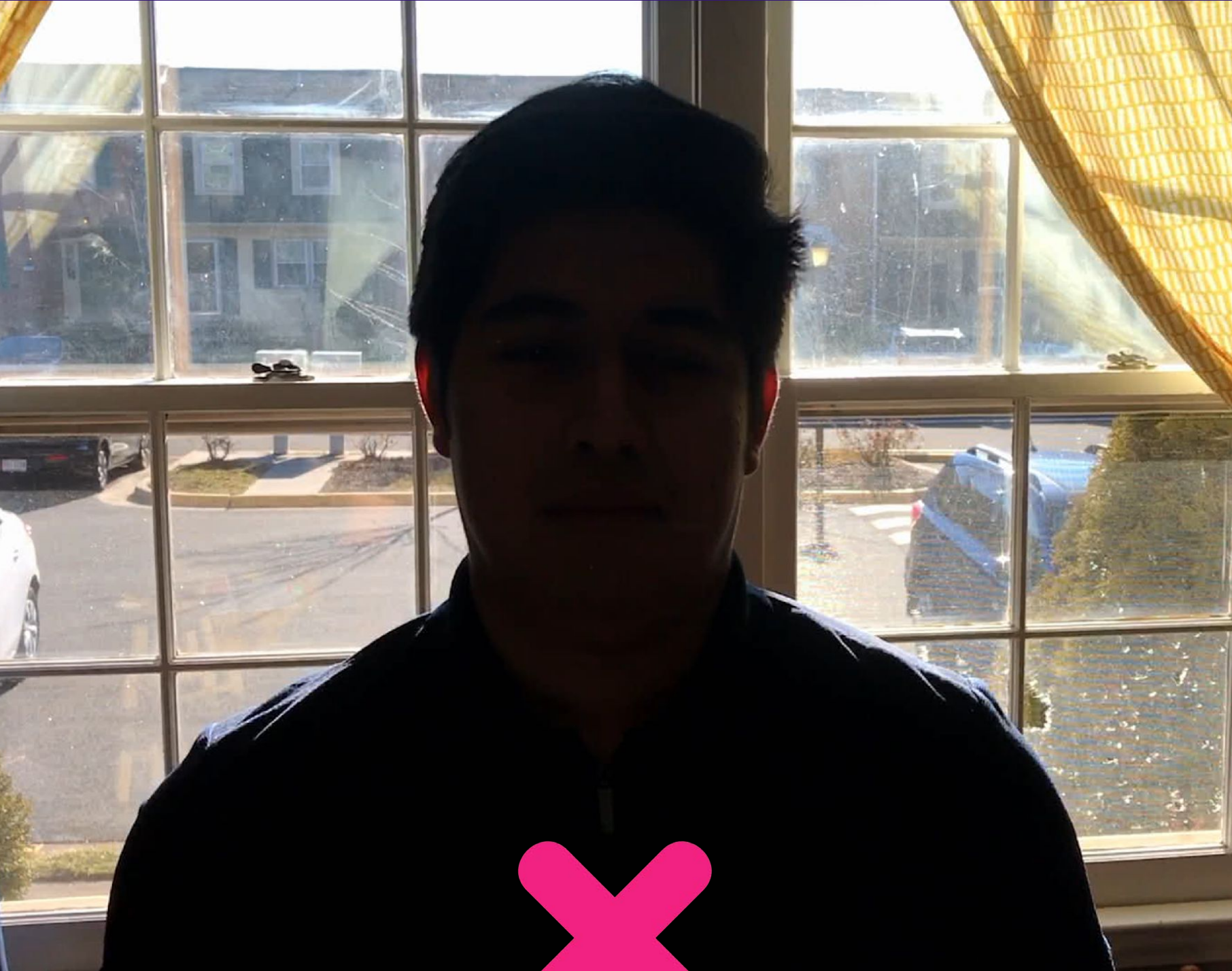
# Interview Composition Checklist

- ✓ Shot type
- ✓ Eye level
- ✓ Good headroom
- ✓ Eyeline
- ✓ Seeing both eyes



# Lighting





Make sure to have **consistent** lighting on your subject and the background.

Find a background that has similar lighting to your subject.





If you film in the **shade** make sure the background is also in the shade.

Adjust the lighting to best see the subject's **face**.







Use **Exposure lock** on your phone to expose for someone's face.

**Audio**



## **Audio is Essential**

You can watch a video with bad camera work, but you can't watch a video with bad audio!








## **Quiet on Set!**

Remind your team  
to be quite before  
recording.



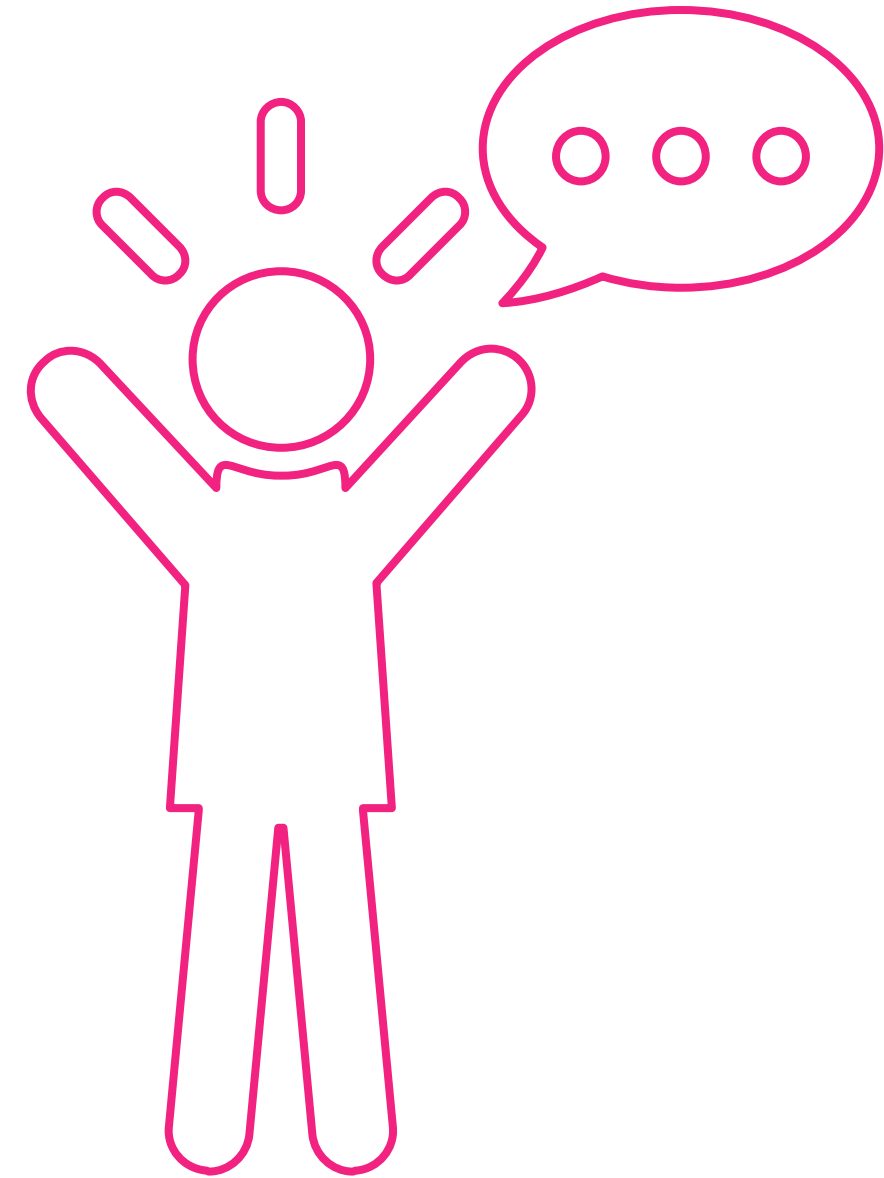
Find a **quiet** place to record.

## Avoid

-  Busy streets
-  Places where people are talking
-  Music playing
-  A room with a loud fan or machine
-  Large rooms with lots of echo



Make sure the subject  
is speaking at a  
**normal** volume level.



**Listen back** to make  
sure that the audio is  
good before moving on.

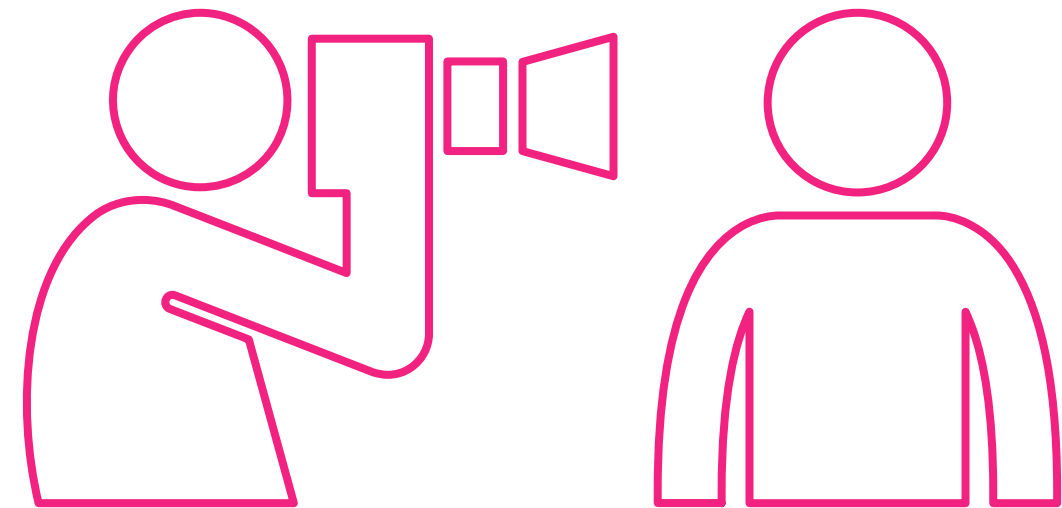


# Smartphone Microphones





Bring the camera **close** to the subject for good audio without an external microphone.



# Distance changes the audio **quality**.



**CLOSE**



**MEDIUM**



**WIDE**

# Microphones for Smartphone Filmmaking

Investing in a microphone is the **number one** thing that will improve your smartphone videos.



## Shotgun Microphone

Good for voice over narration and dramas.

*Movo VXR10*



## Lavalier Microphone

Good for interviews.

*BOYA BY-M1 Pro*



## Wireless Lavalier Mics

Good for interviews and dramas.

*Hollyland LARK 150*

# External Microphone Setup

Most new phones no longer have a sound port.



**Android**  
Microphone  
Adaptor



**iPhone**  
Microphone  
Adaptor

# TRS VS. TRRS

Most smartphones use a **TRRS** input for microphones.



**TRRS**  
4 SECTIONS  
Microphone &  
Stereo Input



**TRS**  
3 SECTIONS  
Stereo Input

Want to use your camera audio equipment?



**TRS to TRRS**  
Adaptor



**TRRS Splitter**  
TRRS to Mic and  
Headphone Input

# A Smartphone Boompole

The **closer** your microphone is to the source the better the audio will be.

## TRRS Extension Cable

*Saramonic SR-SC2500*



## Monopod

*Standard*



## Shotgun Microphone

*Movo VXR10*



# Microphone Monitoring

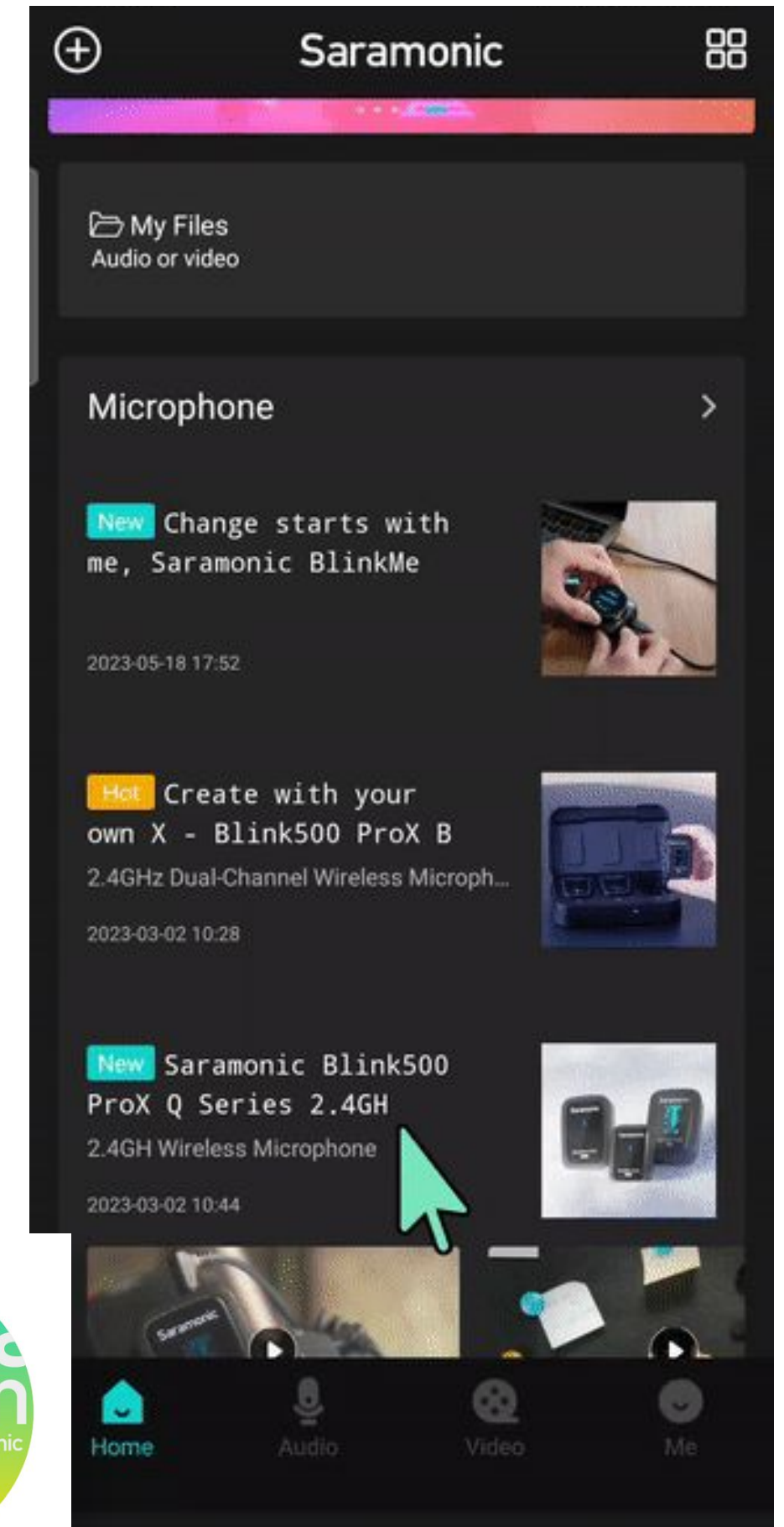
Monitor audio before recording with the **Saramonic** app.



You will need bluetooth headphones or a microphone with a headphone port.



BOYA BY-M1 Pro



## Saramonic App

Go to Audio >> Real-time monitoring

# Live Monitoring

A wireless microphone with a dedicated receiver is the best for monitoring audio **while** recording.



## Wireless Mic Transmitters

Worn by speaker or actor

## Wireless Receiver

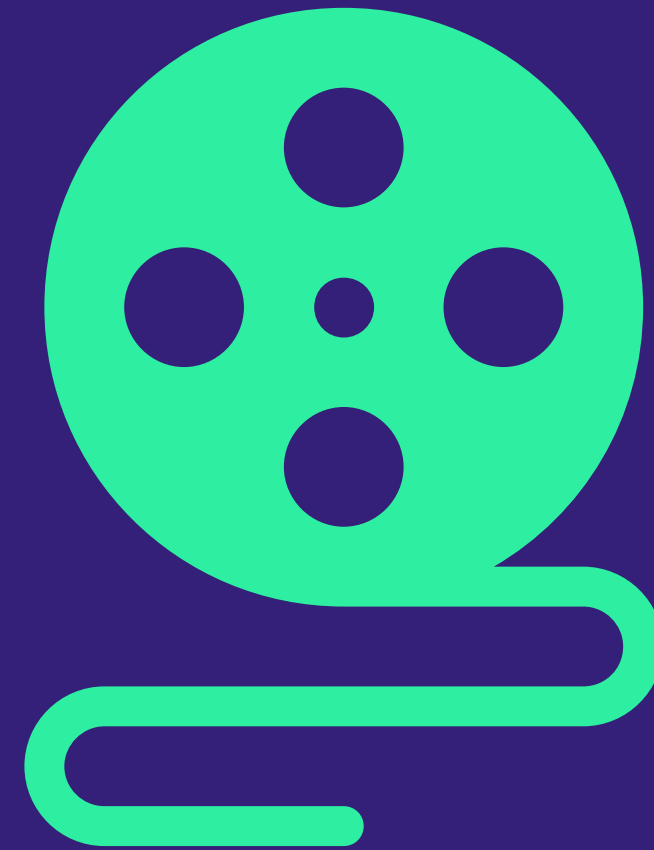
Line out to phone & headphone output

## Hollyland LARK 150

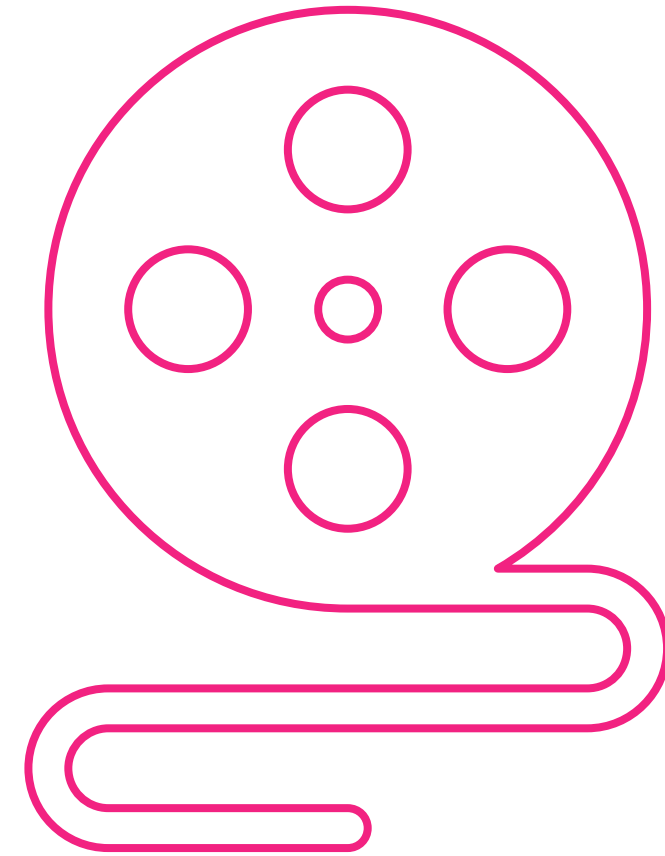
Wireless microphone kit example



**B-Roll**



Good b-roll makes  
an **interview**  
engaging.



B-roll **supports** the main shot.

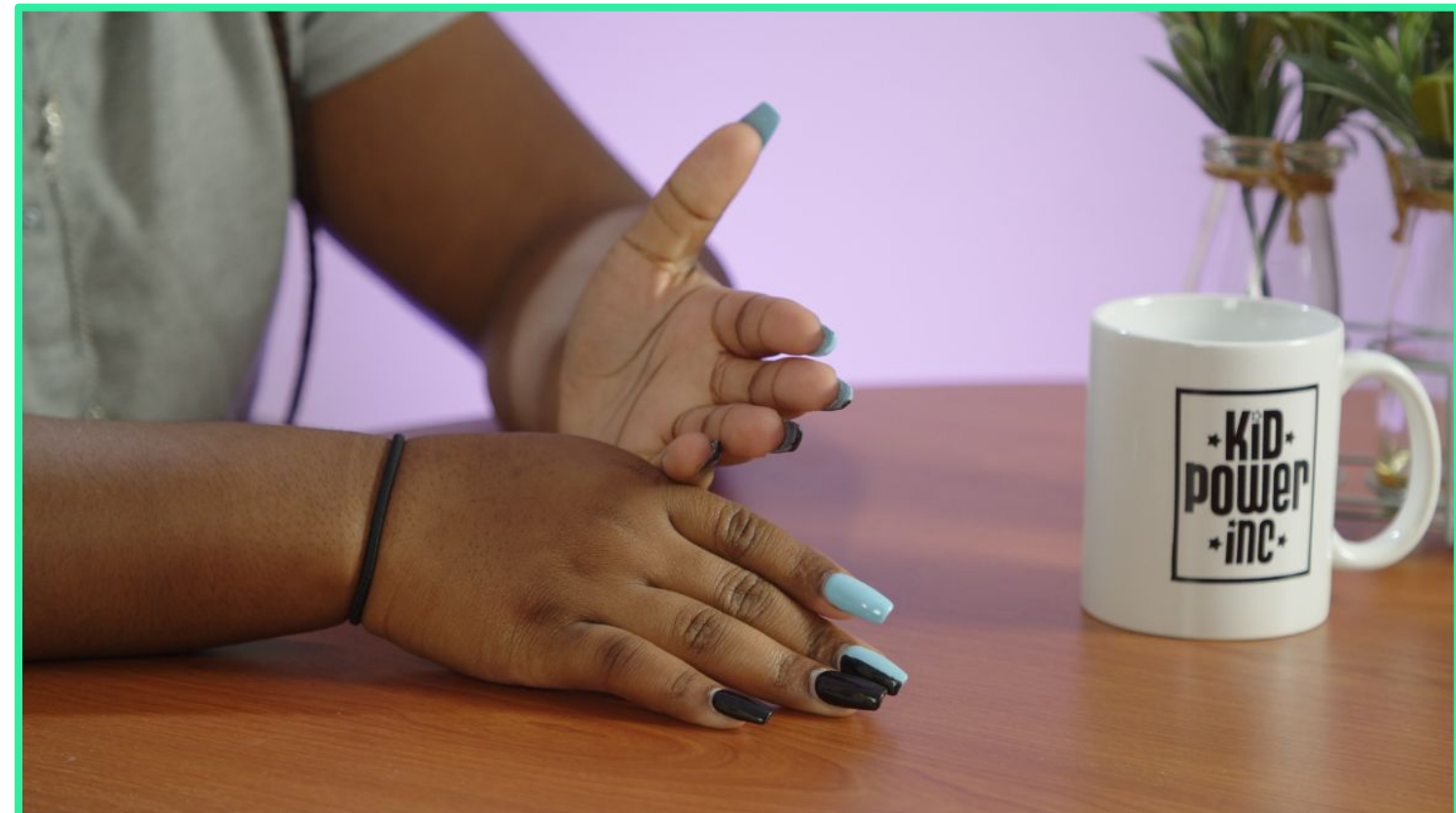


A-Roll  
Interview

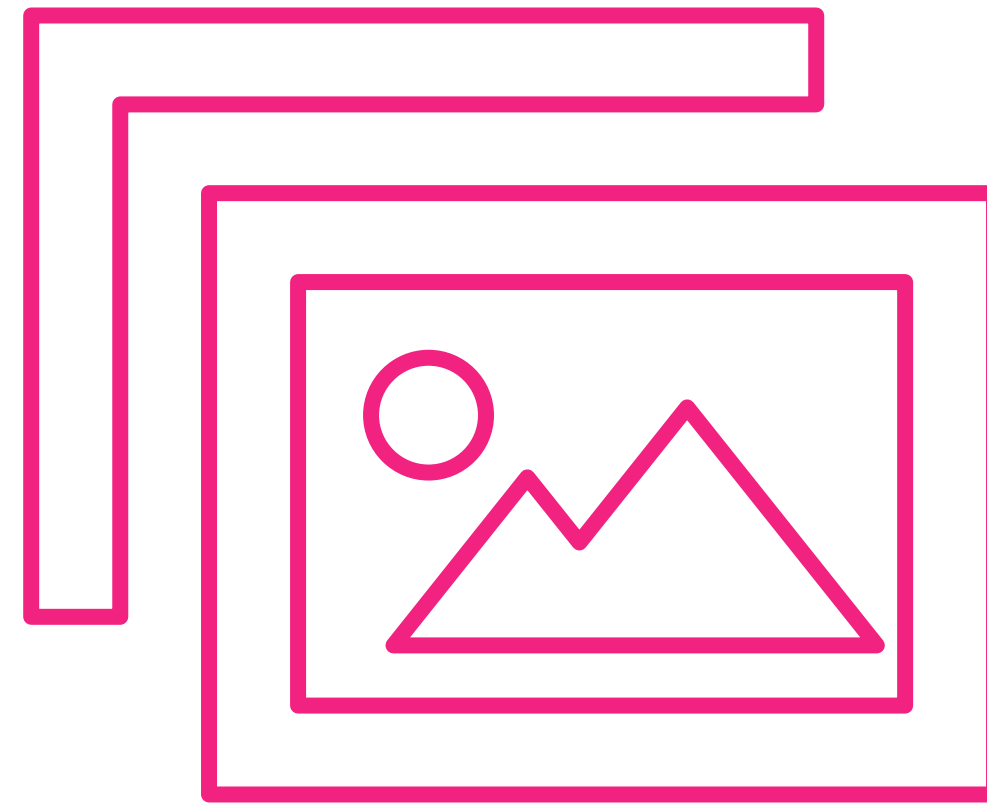


B-Roll  
What I'm talking about

B-roll covers up  
**mistakes** or cuts  
when editing.



**Photos** can be used as b-roll.



Begin and stop recording for each separate shot.  
Do not combine two shots together.



**REC** ●

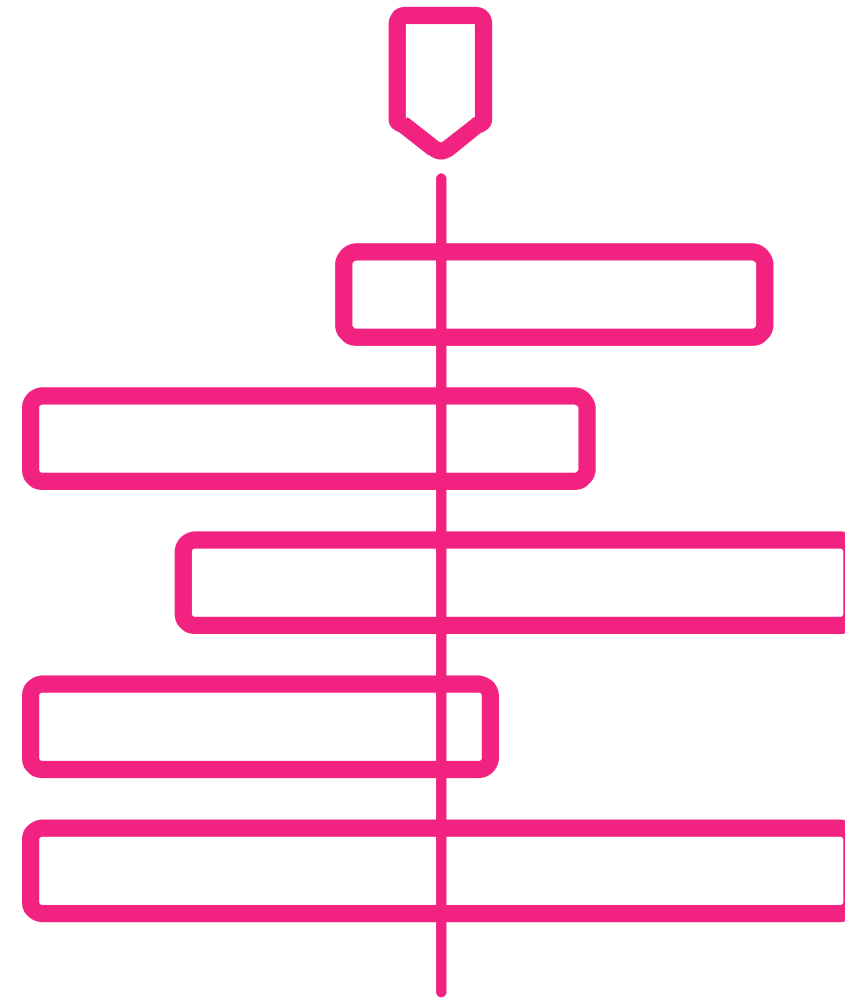


**REC** ●

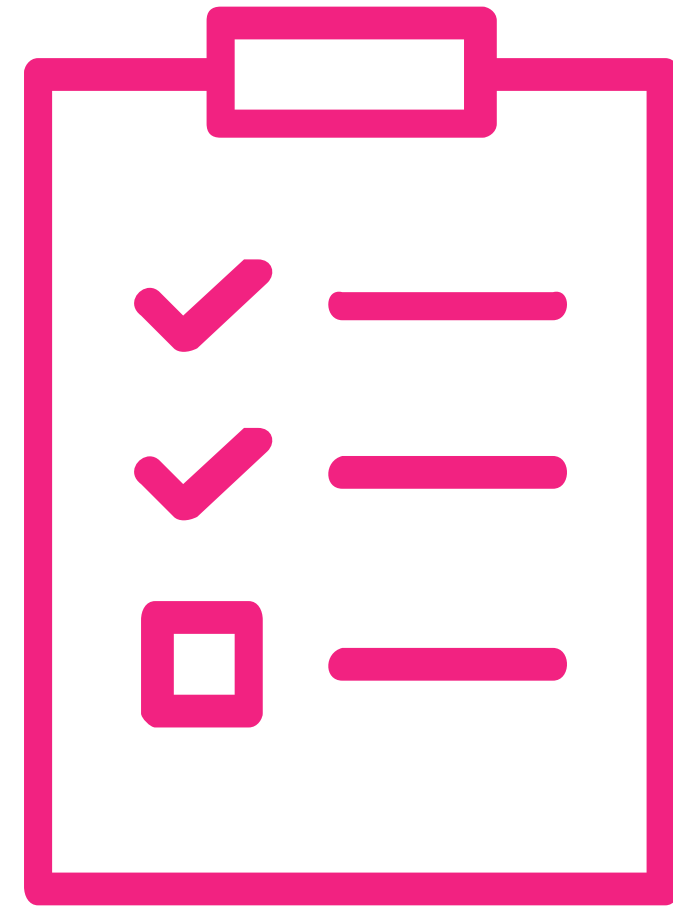


**REC** ●

You'll put the  
shots **together**  
when editing.



Shoot your interview first and make a **list** of possible b-roll.







# Make Your Documentary

**Group Activity**