

Capturing B-Roll

What is B-roll?

B-roll is relevant video footage to accompany your (A-roll) or interview footage, to prevent visual boredom of talking head shots and provide context and visually represent what is being discussed. It's often used to add depth to a story, provide visual interest, or cover up voice-overs, jump-cuts and edits in the primary footage.

Tips for capturing B-roll

- **Stability:** Use a tripod, avoid shaky footage
- **Duration:** Hold your shot for at least ten seconds, for flexibility in post-production.
- **Movement:** Avoid unnecessary pans or zooms.
- **Ambient Sound:** Record natural sound along with your images to immerse viewers.
- **Variety:** Capture multiple camera shots and angles such as, wide, medium, and tight
- **Plan Ahead:** Decide which shots you will need to convey the story.
- **Capture More Than Needed:** It's better to capture too much b-roll than too little.

What Shots to Get?

Establishing Shots: These set the scene, such as a **wide** shot of a building or landscape.

Detail Shots: **Close-ups** of specific items or features, like a person's hands or the details of an object/environment.

Contextual Shots: These provide broader context, such as a **medium** shot of a person in their environment.

People in Environment: Footage of people or objects in motion, like a person walking or in their natural environment.



Establishing/Wide Shot



Contextual/Medium Shot



Detail/Close-Up Shot

By combining wide, medium, and close-up shots with the perspectives of the interviewee and any additional relevant individuals, you'll craft a visually engaging narrative that complements and elevates the spoken content of the interview.

Five Shot B-roll Sequence

Piecing together different shots shows a complete action or moment, but from various angles. These B-roll sequence shots can turn even simple actions into something more exciting for viewers.

1. **Close-up of hands:** Shows action or interaction.
2. **Close-up of face:** Shows emotion or reaction.
3. **Wide shot:** Provides context and setting.
4. **Over-the-shoulder shot:** Gives perspective and relationship between subjects.
5. **Creative or unique angle:** This can be a low angle, high angle, or any shot that adds visual interest.

B-roll Scavenger Hunt Activity

Objective: Enhance b-roll capturing skills, creativity, and camera shots by locating and filming specific B-roll shots within the school environment.

Instructions: Divide students into teams of 2-4 people. Each team will need at least one camera. Then give each team the b-roll scavenger hunt list. Set a time limit duration of 45 minutes for the teams to find and film their b-roll shots. Once the time limit is up, gather the teams together and review the footage. Discuss challenges, and the variety of the shots obtained.

B-roll Scavenger Hunt Shot List:

1. **Art in Making**
2. **Reading Corner**
3. **Nature in School**
4. **Hallway Dynamics**
5. **Snack Time**
6. **Deep Thought**
7. **Hall of Fame**
8. **Joyful Games**