FILMMAKING A

INTERVIEW TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

CAMERA
1. Interviewer should be positioned next to the camera. Interviewer's face should be level with the camera lens so that the eye-line of the interview subject is just to the side of the camera.

2. Do not make the subject of an interview look directly into the camera.

3. The height of the camera is eye-level to the subject.

4. The size of the subject in the frame should range from a medium shot to a close-up. No long shots or extreme close-ups.

5. Make sure there isn't too much headroom. The space between the subject's head and the top of the frame should be minimal.

6. Angle the subject to the left or right side of the frame. Do not put the subject in the middle of the frame.

7. Position the camera close to the subject, between 6 and 12 feet.

8. Zoom in close that that the subject's face can be seen clearly.

LIGHTING
1. Do not position the subject in front of a window or other light source. Position the subject either facing the window or 90 degrees from the window.

2. If possible, avoid overhead lighting, which will cast shadows over the subject's eyes.

3. Use a regular lamp with a 60- to 100-watt bulb and place it next to the interviewer. That way, the subject will be looking toward a light source and the audience will be able to see the person's eyes clearly.

4. If a light source other than overhead lights is not available, then the interviewer should position herself slightly higher than the subject so that the subject's eyes are looking up just a bit.

SOUND

1. Pick a quiet location.

2. Use an external microphone, for example, a shotgun microphone, which picks up sound only where it is pointing.

3. Test for reverberation. Echoes will make it difficult to understand what is being said.

LOCATION

1. Try to place the subjects in a setting that tells the audience something about the person.

2. Use a location that is safe.

3. Use a location that has convenient access to restrooms and refreshments.

4. Make sure you have permission to use the location.