

# Mobile Video Journalism Checklist

*This checklist will help you prepare to film your mobile journalism story, so that when you press 'record', you are completely ready. If you want to take the checklist with you to your shoots or print it out, you can download it here.*

## Before you leave for the shoot:

**Practice:** Make sure you feel confident using your equipment and any apps you plan to use.

**Free up space:** Download photos and videos to ensure you have enough phone memory.

**Charge up:** Fully charge your phone and pack a charger and power bank.

**Pack your bag:** Double check you have everything - tripod, tripod mount, microphones, headphones, charger, power bank, external light, a cloth to clean your lens, and your shot list or storyboard.

**Check the weather:** Bright sunlight or rain may force you to choose a different location..

**Scout the location:** If you can, visit the location before the day of the shoot, or ask your interviewee about the best spot for an interview, and about objects or locations you could film to help tell the story.

## When you arrive:

**Avoid external noise:** Switch off electrical appliances that cause a hum or hiss, like fans, air-conditioners and refrigerators.

**Avoid incoming calls:** Switch your phone to airplane mode, and ask your interviewee to do the same.

**Select the interview backdrop:** Where will your interviewee sit? What is behind them? Make sure it adds context to the story and that there are no distracting objects in the background.

## Before hitting 'record':

**Where is the light?** Make sure the primary light source is behind you, and landing on your interviewee's face.

**Set up your equipment:** Attach the phone to a tripod with a tripod mount. Make sure the lens is at the top of the phone. If you don't have a tripod, stabilise the phone on a solid surface like a wall or fence, or lean your body against a solid surface.

**Check eyeline:** Make sure the camera lens is at the same height as your interviewee's eyes.

**Connect a microphone:** Attach your microphone to your interviewee's clothing, and connect it to your phone,

**Clean the lens:** Use a soft cloth to to remove dust or fingerprints from the camera lens.

**Do a test recording:** Ask your interviewee a simple question, like what they had for breakfast, or where they went on their last holiday. Review the recording with headphones to ensure the video recorded properly and that the audio sounds good.

## **Before Leaving the Location:**

**Record natural sound:** Record 60 seconds of the room or location without any speech, so you have spare location audio for using in the edit.

**Check your shot-list:** Do you have all the footage you need?

**Check your bag:** Have you packed everything that you brought?