

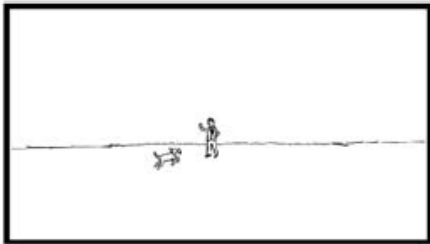
# AUDIOVIDEO

## Exercise: Shot Types

There is a convention in the video, film and television industries which assigns names and guidelines to common types of shots, framing and composition. The list below briefly describes the most common shot types. Note that the exact terminology may vary between production environments but the basic principles are the same.

### Basic shot types:

#### 1. ELS (Extreme Long Shot)



In the extreme long shot, the view is so far from the subject that he/she isn't even visible. The point of this shot is to show the subject's surroundings and is often used as an **establishing shot** (the first shot of a new scene, designed to show the audience where the action is taking place.)

#### 2. LS (Long Shot)



The subject takes up the full frame, or at least as much as possible. In this case, the feet are almost at the bottom of frame, and the head is almost at the top. The small amount of room above and below the subject can be thought of as safety room — you don't want to be cutting the top of the head off. It would also look odd if the feet and head were *exactly* at the top and bottom of frame.

#### 3. MS (Medium Shot)



The medium shot shows some part of the subject in more detail, while still showing enough for the audience to feel as if they were looking at the whole subject. This approximates how you would see a person if you were having a conversation. The MS is appropriate when the subject is speaking without too much emotion or intense concentration. As well as being a comfortable, emotionally neutral shot, the mid shot allows room for hand gestures and a bit of movement.

#### 4. MCU (Medium Close Up)



The medium close-up is half way between a medium shot and a close up. This shot shows the face more clearly, without getting uncomfortably close.

#### 5. CU (Close Up)



In the close-up shot, a certain feature or part of the subject takes up most of the frame. A close up of a person usually means a close up of their face. A close-up of a person emphasizes their emotional state. Whereas a medium shot or medium close up is more appropriate for delivering facts and general information, a close up exaggerates facial expressions which convey emotion. The viewer is drawn into the subject's personal space and shares their feelings.

#### 6. ECU (Extreme Close Up)



The ECU gets right in and shows extreme detail. You would normally need a specific reason to get this close. It is too close to show general reactions or emotion except in very dramatic scenes.

## Advanced shot types:

### 7. Two Shot



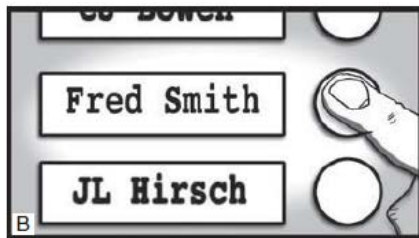
This is a shot of two people together. It can be at any focal length (long, medium, close.)

### 8. Over the Shoulder Shots (OSS)



These are shots from behind one person towards their subject. Generally the frame is cut off just behind the ear, although there are several variations. A good technique to use to get this shot is to frame the person facing the subject with about one third of the frame.

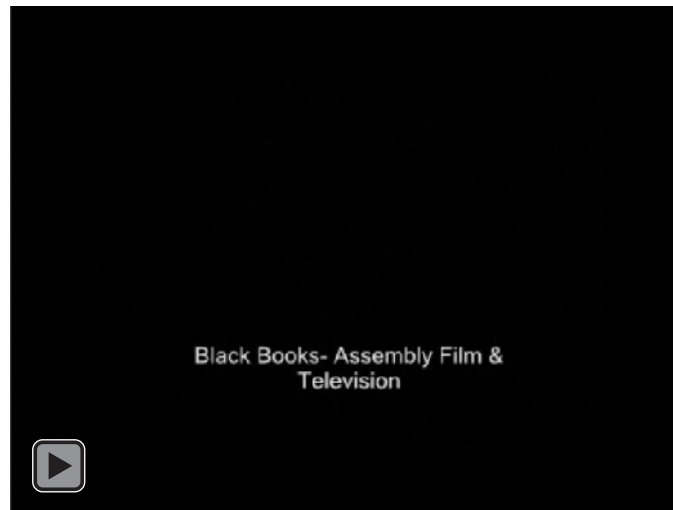
### 9. Point of View (POV)



This is an effective shot that gives the audience the feel that you're seeing it from the eyes of the subject. It is taken from near eye-level of the subject and shows what they might see.

## Exercise

Watch the opening scene from an episode of the British comedy series *Black Books* (2000-2004), from the shot where we see Manny leave the book shop to the moment when he purchases an ice-cream bar.



From this clip choose an example of each of the following shots:

- A long shot
- A medium shot
- A close-up shot
- An extreme close-up shot

Draw a picture of each shot in as much detail as you wish. Below each drawing, explain the purpose of the shot by describing what it tells us about the storyline and/or the relationship between characters.



## Mini-project: Everyday Horror

In this mini-project, you will use various shot types to achieve a feeling of horror/suspense by slowly building and releasing tension. The "horror" element of the scene must be of the everyday variety such as: forgetting your lunch, arriving late for class, failing an exam, etc. For an example see "*The Teacher*" below:



With a partner, shoot and edit a brief every day horror scene in which you use the following shots for the following purposes:

- Extreme Long Shot or Long Shot** – to establish the setting for the scene
- Medium Shot** – to allow the subject to gesture
- Close Up or Extreme Close Up** – to emphasize the subject's emotional state or actions

You may use each type of shot more than once, and you may use other shot types as well.

Your scene must:

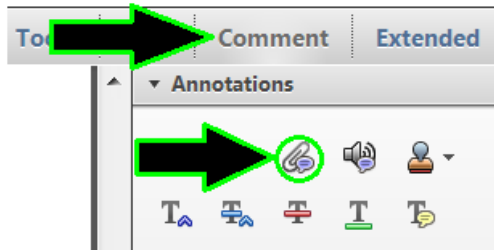
- be less than 30 seconds long
- contain no dialogue
- involve no camera movement
- be set in an everyday situation
- have a beginning, middle, and end
- evoke feelings of horror/suspense by slowly building and then releasing tension
- include an audio track and/or sound effect(s)
- demonstrate basic camera and equipment competencies

## Group Members

### Submit your final movie file

Attach your final movie file by following the instructions below:

1. On the **Commenting** toolbar located in the top right hand side of this page, click the **Annotations** tab and then the **Attach a File as a Comment** tool.



2. With the **Attach a File as a Comment** tool selected, click in the box below. The **Add Attachment** dialog opens. Navigate your hard drive to locate the file.

