Basic Compositional Elements of Filming

• **Rule of Thirds:** Imagine your screen is divided into 9 equal segments by 2 vertical and 2 horizontal lines. The rule of thirds says that you should position the most important elements in your scene along these lines, or at the point where they intersect. Doing so will add balance and interest to the shot.



• **Balancing Subjects:** Placing the main subject off center in the rule of thirds creates a more dynamic shot, however can sometimes leave "dead space." You can add balance to the shot by including another object of lesser importance to fill the space.



• **Leading Lines:** Our eyes are naturally drawn along lines. By thinking about how you place lines in your shot, you can affect the way the viewer's eye moves across the screen, pulling the viewer into the show or through the scene.



- **Head Room:** The amount of space between the top of a person's head and the top of your frame.
 - Too much headroom makes the person appear to be sinking and gives an off- balance feel to the shot.
 - Too little headroom also gives an off balance feel and brings unnecessary attention to the chin and neck, rather than the eyes and face.







Too much

Too Little

Just Right

- **Lead Room** (also called nose room): The amount of space "in front" of a person in the shot; between the person and the edge of the frame in the direction they are looking.
 - Too little lead room gives an uneasy and off balance feeling. This also makes it seem as though they are going out of the frame.
 - Too much lead room gives an off balance feeling, or a feeling as though they are not fully in the frame yet...or like the frame is pulling away from them.
 - Leave extra space in front of a person moving. Not doing so will make it look like the subject is at risk of running into the edge of the frame.







It's like he's going off the screen.

Not quite there yet

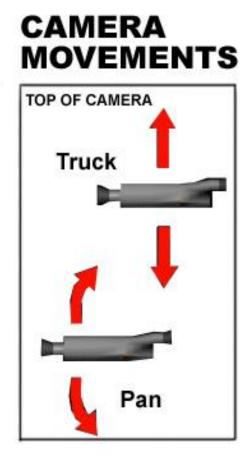
There we go, just right.

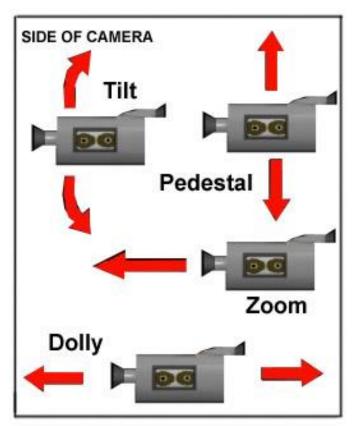
- **Framing:** When framing a shot of people **avoid** placing the edge of the frame at any of the body's natural cutoff lines, such as the neck, elbows, waist, knees and ankles.
- **Super:** Abbreviation for "superimpose," meaning the laying of one image on another. Usually this means placing words over a shot.
 - In Video production when preparing to film and composing a shot, take into consideration leaving room for a super. If there will be a super, you don't want it to interfere with what is being shown.

Basic Camera Movements

- Tilt: Moving the cameras lens up or down, while keeping its horizontal axis constant.
- **Pan:** Moving the cameras lens to one side or another, while keeping its vertical axis constant.
- **Zoom:** Changing the focal length of the lens to make the subject appear closer or farther away.
- Pedestal: Moving the entire camera up or down.
- Dolly: Motion towards or motion from; moving the entire camera to or from the subject.

• **Truck:** Moving the entire camera left or right, while maintaining perpendicular relationship with the subject.

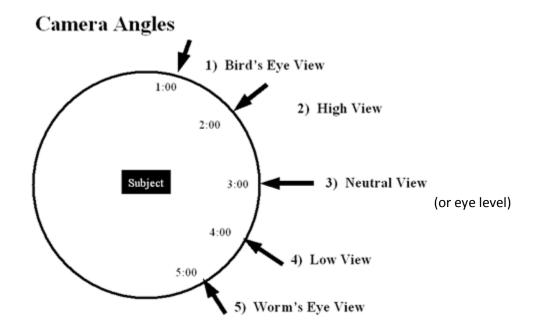




Basic Camera Shots:



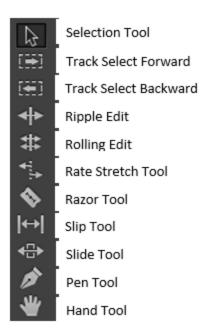
Basic Camera Angles:



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Premiere Toolbar:



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