Filming

Shooting your video is the most important part of the process. Whether you are using a camcorder or even a mobile phone, there are some things you can do to increase your odds of having great footage.

Make sure the camera is as steady as possible. Always use two hands, and if you have access to one, a mobile tripod is a great idea. If you cannot hold the camera steady for whatever reason, scrap the shoot, and shoot again another time. A steady camera is that important.



Watch your lighting. Shade often produces shadows on the faces of your subjects. Try medium sunlight for best results, and if you need a shot right away, since you cannot change the weather, change where you are shooting.

Watch your sound. Shooting next to railroad tracks, where traffic is nearby, or near music, or air conditioners makes for bad audio. If you shoot outside, you may want to invest in a wind shield for your microphone.

Play with shots. You may find a shot looks better with one of your subjects off to the sides rather than straight on. There are no hard and fast rules, so have FUN!

Always bring a backup battery and plenty of release forms with you, in case you want to shoot more people for a longer amount of time.

Editing

Editing is optional. There are a variety of different programs for your computer which can help you edit your film. You might borrow a computer which has an editing program from a family friend, school, church, or temple.

Telling the Story

All stories are best when they are compelling. Remember, we want to hear your voice and your point of view, so feel free to narrate or let your subject tell the story from their own perspective. The personal approach, in which you or your subject speaks in your own words, is what makes a story compelling.