

# Tips for Recording Yourself

1. You can use your phone for making the video, unless you have a very high-quality webcam on your computer, your phone will usually record in better quality.
2. Pause at the beginning and end of the video with your hands down in a “reset position.” This will help make editing easier and smoother.
3. Find the light: Bright, full lighting is usually ideal as it maximizes image color and sharpness. Soft light is most flattering on skin tones, whether it’s sunlight through a curtain, or diffuse light from an electric bulb.
4. Leave room for captions at the bottom of your screen, so if you’re using sign language, don’t sign too low or if you’re showing your audience something, make sure you’re not holding it very low.
5. Your camera lens should be at eye level. You can use a tripod or stack of books on a table. You can also consider having someone else record you. This comes with the added benefit of being able to use the camera on the back of your phone, which is higher quality than the front-facing camera.
6. If you’re using sign language, it can be hard to distinguish signs if your background is very busy. A simple background is usually better. Separate yourself from the background, don’t stand right against a wall, it will usually cast an unpleasant shadow.
7. Film your video horizontally so your video will auto-adjust on bigger screens. Don’t use your iPhone’s zoom feature it will just make your videos blurry.
8. If you are speaking/voicing in your video, be sure that you are filming in a quiet place without background noise.
9. Choose your framing: Consider placing the camera as close as you’re comfortable with, keeping in mind that many of your viewers will likely be watching on small screens. Think about the height of the tripod/phone and your position in the frame. Some creators like to have their head directly in the center, while others like placement towards the sides. Don’t forget to focus the camera!

Center Framing:



1/3rd framing:



10. Stay On Brand: Consult the RIT Brand Portal for lots of ideas and resources for your videos. Double-check that your video is consistent with RIT brand guidelines, both visually and in messaging. <https://www.rit.edu/marketing/brandportal/>

11. Make sure your video is fully accessible. Videos produced at NTID must be fully accessible to all. This means your video should include accurate captions and a voiceover.

YouTube has tools that allow you to caption your own videos quickly and easily. Here's a tutorial on how to add captions to your YouTube videos.

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2734796?hl=en>