



# SHOOTING WITH THE SUN

## The sun; it's nature's spotlight!

While it's a fantastic source of natural light, it can make or break your scene.

If you're not careful, it can wash out your shots, have your actors squinting, and leave your crew crisp and burnt. But with a few tricks up your sleeve, you can make the sun your ally.

Watch this video tutorial to see how it's done

<https://dofilm.co.nz/how-to/5-reasons-to-shoot-your-film-in-direct-sunlight/>

or... Scan me!

\*Print the activity pages at the end of this document and enjoy the rest on screen!

## What you'll need:

- A camera (can be a phone, tablet, or digital camera) \_\_\_\_\_
- A friend to film \_\_\_\_\_
- A sunny spot \_\_\_\_\_





## THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN MITIGATE CHALLENGES OF FILMING IN THE SUN:

- **Reflection:** Position reflective surfaces, such as white foam boards or reflector discs, to bounce sunlight onto shadowed areas of your scene, reducing contrast and enhancing overall lighting.
- **Diffusion:** Place translucent fabric or materials between the sun and your subject to soften harsh sunlight or create shade.
- **Shade Creation:** Take advantage of natural shade from trees, buildings, or umbrellas to shield your actors and equipment from direct sunlight, minimizing squinting and discomfort while maintaining consistent lighting. But get creative, you can use whatever you have: blankets, towels, or a sweater!
- **Camera Settings:** Adjust your camera settings, such as exposure (the amount of light the camera lets in) and ISO (how sensitive the camera is to light), to accommodate varying light conditions and prevent overexposure or underexposure in your footage. Even phones have these settings! Don't be afraid to experiment with them, even if you're unsure exactly how it works.

### PART ONE – START BADLY! (15-20 MINUTES)

Get together with your partner or group and head out to find a sunny spot, either indoors or outdoors. Take turns filming three short 10-second clips to see how sunlight can mess up your shots. If you're unsure what to do, you can always refer back to the video for some tips.

### PART TWO – LET'S DO BETTER (15 MINUTES)

Now it's time to give those bad shots a makeover! Reshoot the same scenes, but this time, try out some of the techniques mentioned above to make them look better. You might find other creative ways to fix the issues.

### PART THREE – SHARE & DISCUSS (20 MINUTES)

After you've finished reshooting, pick one good example and one bad example from your new footage. Share them with the rest of the group and answer the following questions in a piece of paper:

**REMEMBER:** When you finish this activity, don't forget to listen to what your classmates have to say! They might have some helpful advice to share too.

**ACTIVITY**

Shoot with the sun

**WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF FILMING IN THE SUN?**

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**WHICH TECHNIQUE (DIFFUSION, REFLECTION, SHADE CREATION, OR ADJUSTING CAMERA SETTINGS) IMPROVED YOUR SHOTS? WHY?**

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**DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY OBSTACLES WHILE RESHOOTING? HOW DID YOU DO TO FIX THEM?**

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**DID YOU COME UP WITH ANY CREATIVE UNEXPECTED WAYS TO FIX YOUR SUN ISSUES?**

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