



FRAME BY FRAME: EXPLORING SHOT TYPES

Let's discover what different camera shots are and how they can affect your stories.

The way shots are set up and framed helps create the mood, reveal character feelings, and drive the story forward.

Each shot size - like a close-up on someone's face or a wide view of a whole scene - has its own special powers. By learning these powers, you'll be able to learn what rules to bend and why.

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

What you'll need:

- A short film/scene (provided by your instructor)
- Pen and paper (or digital note-taking device)
- Shot Type Examples provided in this guide



FILMING IS LIKE PAINTING A PICTURE, BUT WITH A CAMERA AND LIGHTS INSTEAD OF A BRUSH!

By mastering different types of shots, you'll have a powerful new tool for bringing your stories to life!

Here are some shots examples:

- ▶ **WIDE SHOT:**
Showing the whole scene
- ▶ **MID SHOT:**
A bit closer to the action
- ▶ **CLOSE-UP:**
Zooming in on emotions
- ▶ **EXTREME CLOSE-UP:**
Super close, like secrets in the eyes
- ▶ **TWO SHOT:**
When two characters share the frame
- ▶ **HIGH ANGLE SHOT:**
Looking down from above
- ▶ **LOW ANGLE SHOT:**
Looking up from below

PART ONE – OBSERVATION TIME (10 MINUTES)

1. Watch the short film/scene your instructor shares. Keep your eyes peeled!
2. In pairs or small crews, make a list of all the different shot sizes and framings you spot. Note which scenes/moments they appear in.

PART TWO – DETECTIVE WORK (10 MINUTES)

1. Huddle up with your partner(s) and compare your shot findings.
2. For each shot type, put on your detective hats and analyze:
 - How does this shot make you feel about the characters, place, or events?
 - What specific vibes or reactions might the filmmaker want to create with this shot?
 - How does the shot help move the story along at that moment?
 - In what situations would you want to use a shot like this in your own film?

PART THREE – DISCUSSION TIME (15 MINUTES)

1. Regroup with the whole class and share your shot discoveries!
2. Discuss these thought-provoking questions:
 - a. Which shots really made the story pop for you, and why?
 - b. Were there any shots that felt out-of-place or confusing?
 - c. How might using different shots change how the audience experiences a scene?
 - d. What new shot tricks will you try out when creating your own film?

By practising you will also gain some skills for telling your own visual stories!