

Hands-On Video Workshop

Presented by CCTV at Fall Press Day 2007

Nice job everybody! The workshop was a success, and now your work is being featured on TRONGuide TV in Salem.

If you're interested, here are some notes regarding each group's shooting and interviewing techniques. Everybody did well, but this critique will point out the strengths and weaknesses I observed while capturing the original clips.

GROUP A

You let people talk, and that's great. Try to keep developing questions and adapt them to what people say. Shooter can zoom in to frame speaker in a close-up during interview. Be careful not to record too much extra stuff (shots of the floor) between interviews. Good audio.

GROUP B

Camera composition is good, including 'thirds' shots and close/medium shots. Little shaky in some places. Gotta be careful with that mic. Nice job getting somebody to talk who hesitated.

GROUP C

Camera operator gets nice and close, adds movement but remains steady. Too much head room on some wide shots, but great closeups. Some mic buzz on a few shots; use headphones to identify audio problems. Again, adaptive interview questioning helps, but you had good answers from subjects.

GROUP D

Good job all around. You identified an audio problem early and had it corrected. Interviewer asks best questions of all the groups, but we can't hear you because the subject is given the mic! I think that worked well for you in this case, but you need 2 mics (which we didn't offer). Again: great adaptive questions.

GROUP E

Good audio - the mic you used is better for interviews. That said, there was an audio buzz in one interview. Good adaptive questions with unique voice. Good use of 2-shot, but closeups of interview subjects were needed. Watch the headroom. Compose shot and test mic before rolling tape.

Good luck in the future, and stop by CCTV if you're ever in Salem. Thanks to everybody!

Sincerely,
Greg Hiltz
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