

How to Film like a Pro

Tips & Techniques for using your camera or phone



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1

Set up

- Camera Placement

- Lighting

- Audio

- Backdrop



Set up

Camera Placement

- We recommend using a camera or smartphone with a tripod
- Camera height should be eye level
- You should be looking directly at the camera lens (not the center of the phone screen)

Lighting

- Shoot during daylight hours as natural light is best
- Avoid having a window behind you
- If using an external light source (ring light, lamp, etc.) make sure it is in front of you

Audio

- We recommend using an external microphone
- Ensure there's no background noise
- Do a take and play it back to test the audio levels

Backdrop

- Make sure your background is clean and uncluttered
- Position yourself away from the background to enable depth of field



2

Framing

Landscape

Portrait

Rule of thirds



Framing

Landscape

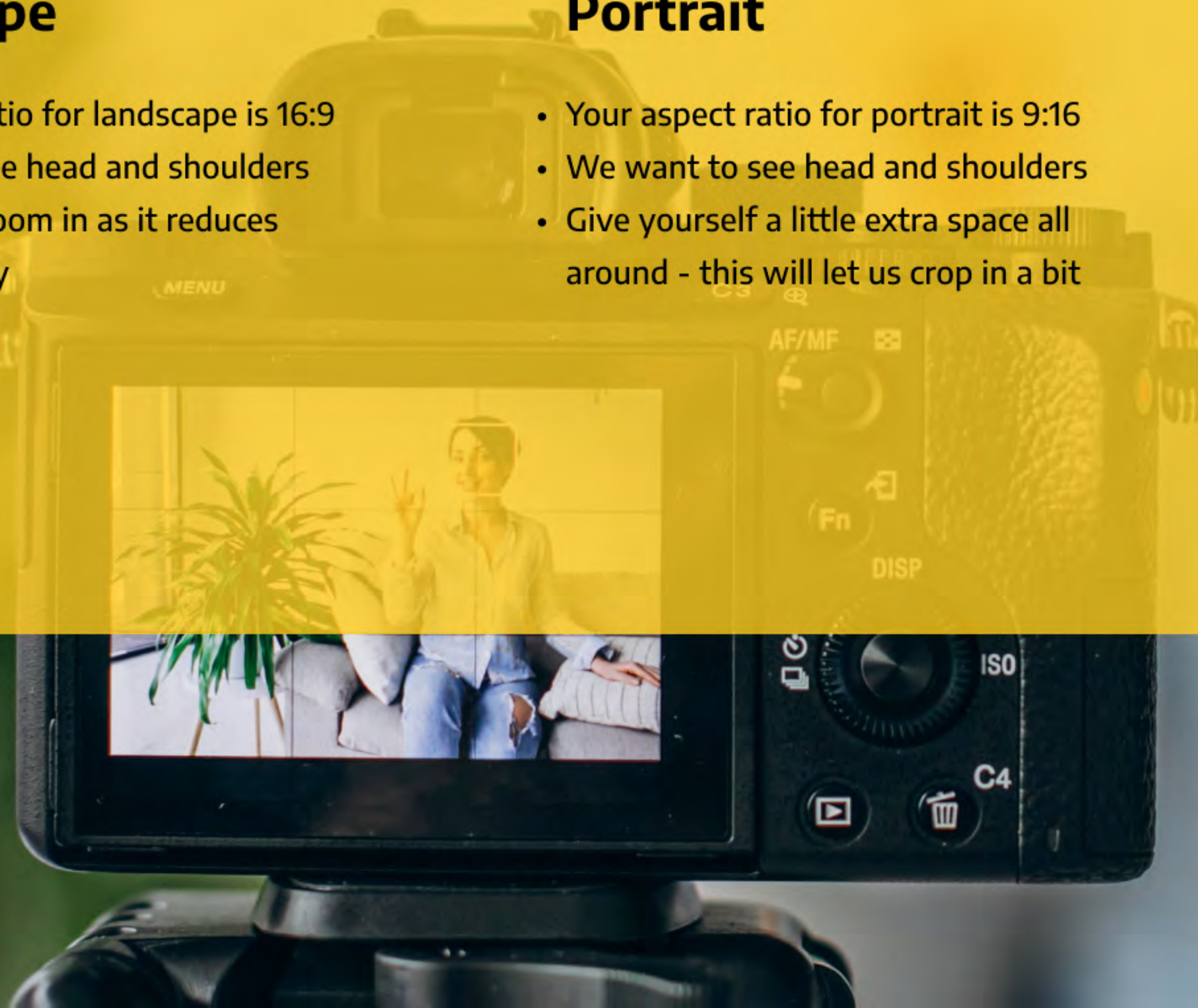
- Your aspect ratio for landscape is 16:9
- We want to see head and shoulders
- Please don't zoom in as it reduces footage quality

Portrait

- Your aspect ratio for portrait is 9:16
- We want to see head and shoulders
- Give yourself a little extra space all around - this will let us crop in a bit

Rule of thirds

- Place yourself on the left or right side of the screen - this allows space for graphics to be added in post-production



3

Practice

- Preparation
- Multiple takes
- Speak clearly
- Take it in stages



Practice

Preparation

- Film it a few times to get it right
- Try different locations and backgrounds
- Avoid wearing stripes or patterns - solid colors are best

Multiple takes

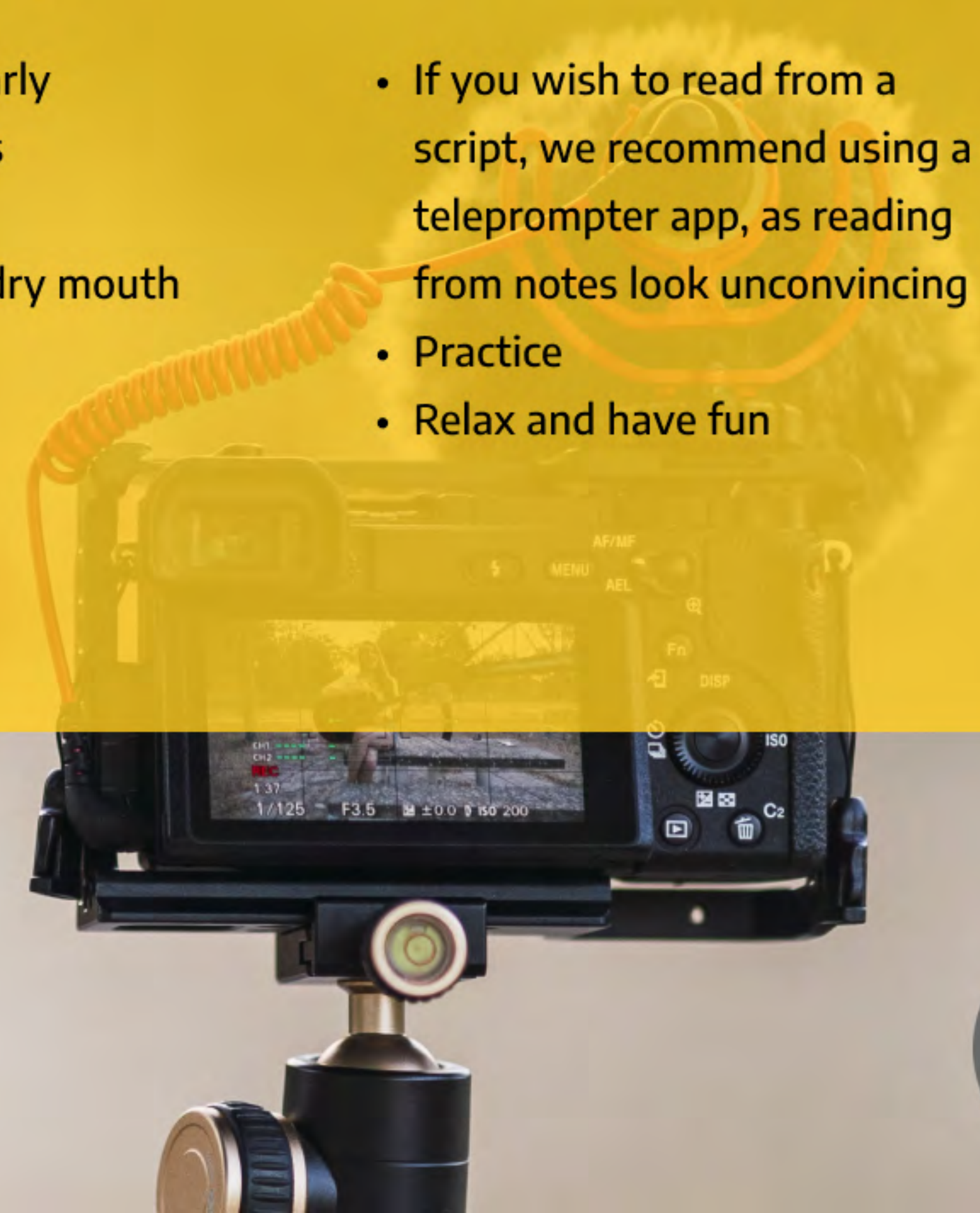
- Do several usable takes - three that you are happy with
- Mark your position on the ground so you always stand in the same place

Speak clearly

- Speak slowly & clearly
- Take regular pauses
- Don't chew gum
- Sip water to avoid dry mouth

Take it in stages

- If you wish to read from a script, we recommend using a teleprompter app, as reading from notes look unconvincing
- Practice
- Relax and have fun



4

Equipment

Smartphone

DSLR

Kit list



Equipment

Recording on a Smartphone

- Ensure you have enough storage (you will need around 8GB for 30mins of footage)
- Make sure your device is charged
- Ensure it's on airplane mode
- Clean the lens with a lens cloth

Recording on a DSLR

- Set the camera to automatic focus mode (AF)
- Keep your aperture high (11-18 is good)
- Make sure you can upload from the memory card before starting

Kit list

- The mobile kit we recommend:
[RØDE Microphones Vlogger Kit Universal Edition](#)



5

Sharing

WeTransfer

Dropbox



Sharing

WeTransfer

- Go to wetransfer.com
- Upload your video files
- Fill in the subject, your email address and the recipient's email
- Click 'Transfer' and wait for the file to upload

Dropbox

- If we are managing the project for you, you can upload your video files using this link: [Dropbox](#)



Thank you!

For more info and ideas visit leilamakki.com

