

**Interview#1:** What's wrong with the composition of this interview? How could it have been done better?



**Interview#2:** What's wrong with the composition of this interview? How could it have been done better?



**Interview#3:** What's wrong with the composition of this interview? How could it have been done better?



# The Art of the DOCUMENTARY

## FILM Interview

### Prep-Research-Set up-Execution



# The FILM (“Documentary”) Interview

- **MUCH** different than a news interview!
  - LOCATION MATTERS!!!
  - More than quote gathering or sound bite hunting.
  - More than using people for your own benefit
- **Conversational Approach** — An open exchange
- **OPEN-ENDED Questions** — NO ONE WORD RESPONSES
  - Far Ranging, Directed, Grouped/Themed questions
  - Get people to TELL STORIES
- **Time commitment** (Always plan on it taking longer)



# Preparation#1

• **RESEARCH!** You should do background research on ALL of the following

1. **THE TOPIC** and ISSUES, events, stereotypes, related news items.
2. **THE WHOLE PERSON**.
3. **OTHER PEOPLE** Who Might Contribute (relations, friends, mentors, oppositions).
4. **SHADOW/Follow INTERVIEWING!** Plan for it. **ARCHIVE IMAGERY!**
5. **NEARLY ALL** of your questions memorized. **THINK** on your feet!
6. **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS!** PROJECT what their answers might be → in order to create **Round#2** and **Round#3** Questions.



# Preparation#2

## • Making FIRST Contact!

- ▶ BE Courteous and professional!
- ▶ PRE-INTERVIEW Conversation.
- ▶ Genuinely Interested!
- ▶ Email... → follow-up phone call.
  - ☑ Give them a BRIEF intro to the FILM and **your hopes** so far.
  - ☑ Why their story is so cool-interesting-important
- ▶ In **PERSON** 😊
- ▶ **50%+** of Requests for Interviews are NOT granted! Plan **B**, **C**, and **D**
- ▶ Be **PERSISTENT!** But don't be a **pain** or **PSYCHO!**
- ▶ PRE-LOADING Questions. Provide them with a SHORT list of questions (2 or 3) that they are likely to answer with **GUSTO!**



**LET'S SAY**  
for whatever reason  
**YOU'RE THE FIRST HUMAN EVER TO MAKE ALIEN CONTACT**  
yes, I know, pretty unlikely. probably isn't going to be you. that's given, but it would be a good idea for us to open a few minutes and think about it, why? well, for one:  
**MOST HISTORIANS AND SCIENTISTS AGREE THIS WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY**

**GREAT JOB SO FAR! NOW FOR THE END-GAME**

In fact, it's generally accepted that in generations to come, all of history would be divided into "pre-contact" and "post-contact" eras, instead of the "BC / AD" distinction we use now. So, to put it one way, you're going to be the most important person in history. Think, bigger than Jesus.

The day you make contact will live on, through all cultures and civilizations, for as long as the human race exists. It will be the defining moment for our entire species. **BUT TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT** You might get nervous and screw something up. Just keep a few key points in your head and try to keep your cool.

**FIRST THINGS FIRST: HOLD THE @!&#\$ STILL**  
The aliens will be quite used to things falling like crazy and trying to get away. They'll most likely have picked up a

At this point, the aliens will know we're somewhat intelligent. But let's face it: You've spent a few hours on some kind of alien craft and you want to get home and probably take a shower. Wrapping this up will most likely involve two things: Expressing our desire to learn about them, and acting as their spokesperson for the rest of the world.

Draw something similar to what's on the left here. It'll let the visitors know that we understand astronomy. Make an orbit around the third dot from the sun; That way they'll know we understand our place. That's really, really important.

Side note: Make the orbit an oval, not a circle. And don't use arrows to point to things; That probably isn't an intuitive to aliens as it is to us.

Conveying that we have discovered our place in the Universe is absolutely key. This will show aliens that we're curious, scientific, and willing to learn more about the cosmos.

# MAKE IT Personal!

- **CHANGES.** What have been the **CHANGES** that they've seen and experienced?
- **OPERATIONS/Process.** How does it work? What are the details in the operation behind the scenes?
- **MISPERCEPTIONS?** What do they think most people don't know or completely understand about their work, topic, research, etc?
- **TECHNOLOGY.** What roles does technology play? New Technologies? **IMPACT?**
- Different Regions? International/Global?
- **FRIENDS-RELATIONS?** What do their friends or relations think about their passion/escape?
- **FUTURE?** What are their perceptions about what will likely happen in the future (issues)?





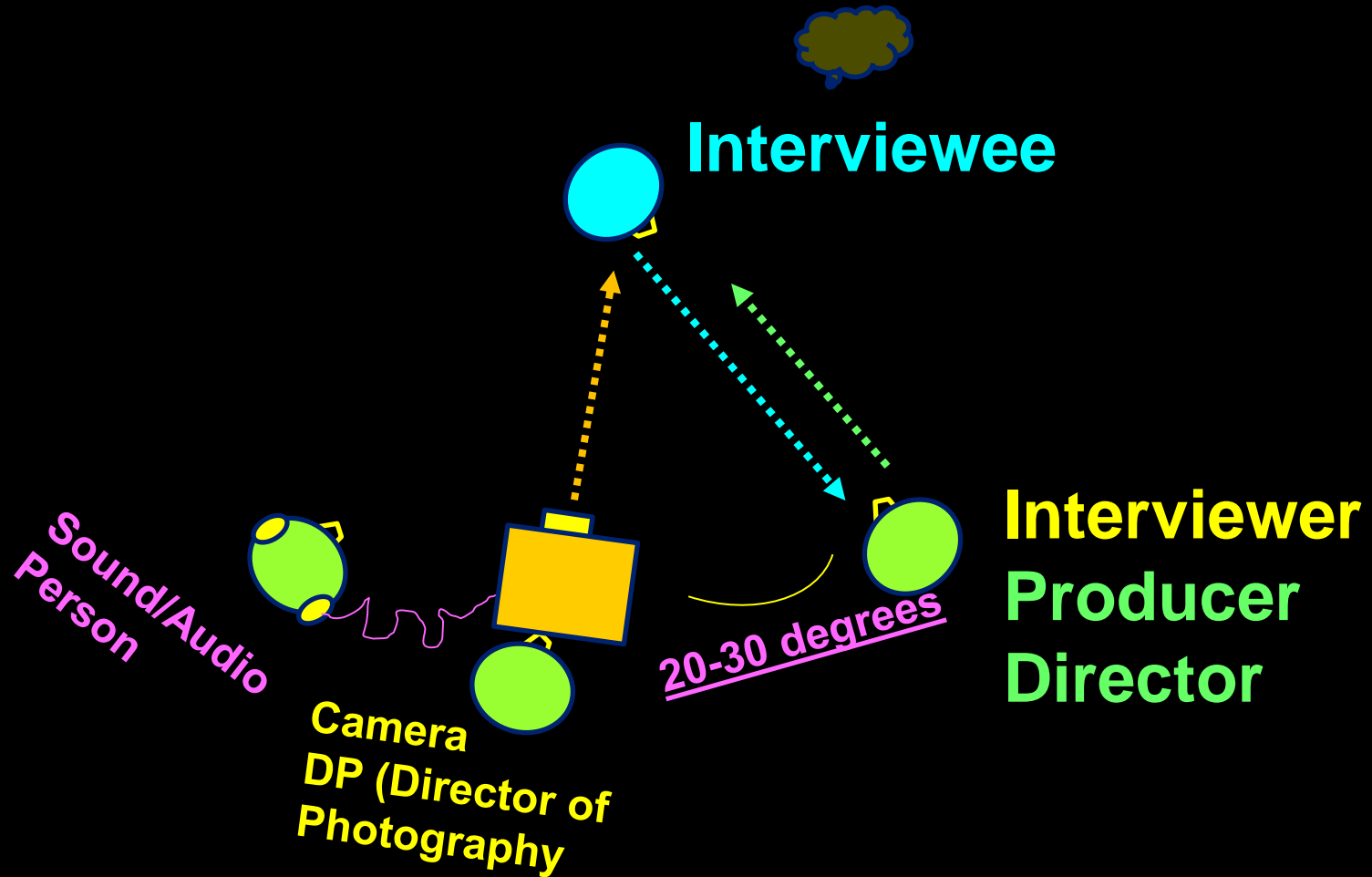
# The Approach

- **Genuine Interest** and **energy**
- **The Messages YOU are giving off!**  
You must be extremely aware of your demeanor (dress, gender, age, education, economic, race, religion, etc.)
- **Nonverbals**—Eye Contact, Expression, Body Language
- **Verbals**--Tone of voice, approach of a question
- Other Directedness — **Emotional Reads** of their body language
- **Their POV!** Do they have any particular question that they think is important to be addressed?



# BLOCKING 101

The 3pt INTERVIEW Set up  
(overhead view)



## Interview#1



## Interview#2



### Interview#3





# Post interview Follow-ups

- **Quick Thank you!!!**
- Check back in (up-date them on progress).
- Not all interviews need a follow-up.
- Additional Things to say? Based on additional findings.
- Spoken with other people (Reactions).
- Other sources?
- Provide a copy of the final project.  
**Then Do it!**



# Examples of MJD Student Work



## Breaking the Chain

Staying small in the midst of corporate localwashing



