

Quick Start Guide For: How-To Shoot A Talking Head, Part 2, Video Runs: 11:58

BACKGROUNDS for your talking head.

- If possible, make the background say something relevant about the person on camera.
- If you can't do something like that, almost anyone will look good in a homey environment look or business atmosphere.
- Bookshelves make great backgrounds.
- I've got curtains draped behind me. I cut videos here all the time so I want a nice background there all the time, so I did it with the curtains.

Green screen with talking heads. It is not necessary, but can be nice. Green screen adds a lot of work and you need more sophisticated editing software. Do not do green screen unless you have good reason.

You can get a green-screen like effect by standing in front of a big flat screen monitor and having something playing on that plasma monitor. That will look like you green screened in a digital background.

Audio for your talking head is super important. People will not tolerate poor sound. What this boils down to is that it helps to have whatever microphone you are using close to the speakers mouth.

Make sure to silence all the extraneous noise before recording. That is the single most important thing and makes a whole lot more difference than what microphone you actually use.

Talking heads in the form of a two-person interview, only one person shows most of the time.

Have two people facing each other a little bit off center. Place your camera on one side and stay on that one side if you take cut-a-ways of the reporter when the interview is over. **That's one of the few rules in video making. The line of axis. (Also called the 180 degree rule)**

Keeping the camera on one side of the line of access ensures that your people appear to be looking at each other. This is referred to as "screen direction."