

## TIPS ON HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY RECORD YOURSELF ON YOUR PHONE

*Camera/Microphone:* Smartphone  
*Tripod:* Gorillapod, a shelf, or any DIY technique  
*Lighting:* Natural light from a bright window or desk light  
*Background:* Clean, uncluttered space

### Purposefully choose the video orientation

Horizontal video is most commonly used for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram, but also looks good on larger devices, not just phone screens. Recording vertically can limit the how much is seen in the video and is usually only used for Instagram stories.

### Use the right camera

No matter if in horizontal or vertical mode, use the camera on the back of your phone. The quality of the front camera is not as good on most phones.

### Make sure your lens is clean

Whether front lens or back, use your shirt or a glass lens cloth to wipe the camera lens. This will prevent cloudy footage.

### Avoid Shaky Footage

Shaky footage will make any professional video look like a home movie (and it can make your viewers feel seasick, to boot). It's hard to hold a camera completely steady, so instead, use a tripod, or set your camera on a sturdy surface.

*Pro-tip: Don't have a tripod? MacGyver it at home, check out these videos for ideas: [bit.ly/diytripod](http://bit.ly/diytripod) [bit.ly/diytripod2](http://bit.ly/diytripod2)*

### Set-up a good recording angle and position

Don't record yourself from the chin up. Its unflattering on everyone. Be sure that the camera is equal with your eyes and that you are not looking down. To get your laptop's webcam at eye level, place it on a stack of books. As far as your position, check out the examples of framing yourself are below. Don't be afraid to fill the screen space.



#### **Top three video positions**

the light source angled to you. Lights in the background can darken your image and only cast a silhouette. Feel free to use a desk light or any other lamp to add supplemental light to an overhead room light. But keep in mind if the light isn't fluorescent, it will cast an unnatural yellow glow that you want to avoid if possible.

### Use a clean background

Nothing looks less professional than a messy or distracting background. *Pro tip: If you are not wearing Marian apparel, have something in the background that is Marian branded. It will visually tie you back to the university.*

### Be loud and clear for good audio

### Check your storage before recording

Recording video takes up a lot of space on your phone, so you'll need to transfer your files periodically to your computer to ensure you have enough space to record. If you run out of storage while recording, your video will end. Use OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, or another cloud service's app to upload videos/images on your phone to free up space.

### HAVE FUN!

