



4-H Filmmaking Workshop Video 3: Using Your Tripod

Script

Morissa: This film is brought to you by 4H, America's largest youth development organization, in collaboration with Montana State University and TERRApod. [intro music]

Daniel: My name is Daniel, and today I'm going to tell you about one of the most important tools in filmmaking the tripod. The three main components of a tripod are the legs which allow you to raise or lower the tripod, the handle which allows you to pan left or right, tilt up or down, the third and final thing is the base plate which allows you to attach the camera to the tripod. So when you're ready for your camera-ah, there we are-you can put it straight onto your tripod. We put it on the base plate by moving this lever to either the left or the right. Now make sure your camera is completely secure before you actually let go of it, otherwise it may tumble to its death.

[shattering noise]

Daniel: Now, moving your camera from the left or to the right is called panning. You can also tilt down or up. It's called tilting. Whenever you pan or tilt make sure you turn the appropriate knobs. That way you loosen up the panning or tilting action so you don't break anything on the tripod.

Daniel: Now, you see how smooth the motion is panning from the left to the right? This will allow you to shoot a shot without all that shake and quake in the frame.

Daniel: But just because you have your tripod set up, don't forget to vary your angles.

[music]

Daniel: Also remember to vary your shots, like the wide shot, the medium shot, and the close-up.

[music]

Daniel: All these shots will make your film actually interesting. If you find yourself in a situation where you do not have a tripod, that's all right. You can do the second best thing, you can use your body as a tripod. You can tuck your arms into your side, squat your legs and hold your camera to your body. This will allow you to get a steady shot without actually having a tripod. It's not perfect but it's close.

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Daniel: Also, the MTV camera where you can zoom in and out at high speeds and juggle it, the astronaut, the monkey camera, the football, with your arms into your hips hold your camera like this, and say, "Ten hut, " and many others.

Daniel: So sorry.

[laughter]

Daniel: So we've gone through how to use our cameras and we've also gone through how to use our tripods. So what's the next step for us?

Emily: In this exercise we're going to challenge you to shoot one simple action like walking through a door or sitting down to read a book, but you have to use six different types of shots.

Daniel: Six different types of shots like close-up shot or medium shot.

Emily: A high angle or a low angle.

Daniel: Just keep it dynamic, mix it up and have fun. [music]

Emily: So let's get started. [laughter]

[music]

Transcription by CastingWords