

How^{To} Shoot Like A Pro

Quick tips, tricks and techniques to get the best out of your budding filmmakers.

Lesson #2 for educators and students:

Capturing the excitement of your field trips.

Capturing your field trips on video can be a powerful teaching tool. Use last year's video to generate excitement about an upcoming trip. Encourage your students to work collaboratively. And keep them learning long after the trip is over.

The secret to any movie is pacing. And your field trip video is no different. We'll teach you a few tricks you and your students can use to keep your audience engaged.

The first trick you'll learn is establishing a master shot. Then we'll move on to the "cutaway" shot, and finally, the Picture-in-Picture (PIP) feature. We'll use a trip to the zoo for illustrative purposes, but you can use these techniques to add excitement to any video you create.



How to use master shots, cutaway shots and Picture-in-Picture like a pro.



Step 1: Establish your first master shot: *Bus arriving.*

This shot introduces your story and sets your scene.



Step 2: "Cut away" from your master shot and zoom in: *Zookeeper talking to students.*

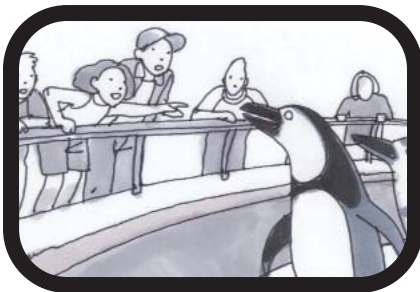
Cutaways highlight a specific action or moment of learning in the master shot. They allow you to fast-forward through time: once you cut away from your master shot, you can return to it seconds or minutes later and your audience will assume what they've been watching is in real time.



Step 3: Cut back to a master shot: *Students touring zoo.*

DO
Cut back and forth between master shots and cutaways. It's a trick used by professional filmmakers and will make your video more interesting.

DON'T
Don't skip the editing process. Even the best director needs an editor.



Step 4: Master shot: *Students arriving at the Arctic Exhibit.*



Step 5: Cutaway: *Close-up of penguin.*



Step 6: Cut back to master shot: *Backstage in the Arctic Exhibit.*



Step 7: Master shot: *Zookeeper talking to students about arctic animals.*



Step 8: Cutaway: *Close-up of polar bears swimming.*



Step 9: Master shot: *Zookeeper talking to students about polar bears.*



Step 10: Cutaway: Close-up of zookeeper talking about penguin behavior.



Step 11: Overlay: Penguins in Arctic Exhibit.

Using Pinnacle Studio Plus software in the editing room, you can use the Picture-in-Picture feature to drop your cutaways right into your master shot. This adds variety and interest to your movie and can set up transitions to the next scene.



Step 12: Close with a master shot: Students petting penguins.

DO

Do use a storyboard to keep your movie on track while you're working the camera and following the action. We've provided a blank one for you at the end of this How To.

DON'T

Don't feel restricted by your storyboard. Have fun!

This is **a blank storyboard**. Use it to sketch out scene sequences that you will shoot for your movie.

