

# VIDEO SUGGESTIONS

One fun way to approach the filming is to have a two-person team: the videographer and the reporter.

## **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:**

For a 2-3 minute piece, we suggest 10-15 minutes of raw tape. Make sure what you're shooting is worth capturing – be intentional – don't just set up a camera on a tripod and let it roll forever...

Do what you can to hold the camera steady. Camera shake is particularly noticeable when you're far away from the action and zoomed all the way in – if you even breathe the camera moves -- so get as close as you can to what's happening.

## **To make your editing easier, make sure you include the following kinds of shots:**

An establishing shot -- a wide shot of the whole group talking/working. At least 10 seconds. A slow pan is fine if it's a big group.

Lots of medium shots (doesn't have to be full body, but waist up) of 2 or 3 people working.

Meaningful close-ups of faces and hands. Follow the action.

Resist the temptation to cut the shot early – let things play out for a few seconds. (for example, if someone is pushing a wheelbarrow, follow that person til they get across the garden and even go out of frame. A shot that only last five seconds and stops in the middle of the action will be very frustrating when you edit)

More wide shots of the group once they really get going. Some movement (panning side to side, or a really steady zoom from a wide shot to an individual) could be fun.

Make sure you get laughing.

It might also be fun to stage a group shot with a group cheer for the wrap-up.

Don't be afraid to get on your knees or get up on a chair to find interesting angles. Have fun!

## **THE REPORTER:**

Just like those folks on the news, the reporter interviews several participants. (when you're interviewing, the reporter stands to one side of the camera and the interview subject looks at the reporter, NOT the camera) .

Get close to the person you're interviewing so the camera mic picks up their voice clearly. How close? The camera probably shouldn't be more than 3-5 feet away. Remember, the closer you are, the better their audio will sound.

While it's true that UU's rarely need suggestions on how to ask questions....here are the basics:

What are you doing?  
Why do you like doing it?  
Why is this important to you?  
Why is social action important for our church?  
What does this mean to you personally?

Avoid questions that can be answered by yes or no.  
Focus on asking questions that start with how or why.

**Sometime during the event, have the reporter go in front of the camera** to do an introductory sentence or two and a closing sentence or two. You've seen reporters do this a million times – but keep in mind, they rarely wing it. There's nothing wrong with jotting down a few notes beforehand to get your thoughts together.

#### **EDITING:**

**Music makes all the difference in the final product.** Find a song that goes with your project to help tell the story. (examples from JUC: Blood drive/I'd do Anything for You from Oliver; canned food drive/Can Can from Moulin Rouge; Family Tree yard clean-up/We Are Family by Sly and the Family Stone – you get the idea).

Here are links to a couple of web pages on consumer video editing software that might be useful:

<http://www.videomaker.com/article/10463/>  
[http://www.manifest-tech.com/links/pcvidsw\\_full.htm](http://www.manifest-tech.com/links/pcvidsw_full.htm)

Questions? Feel free to call or email Chris or Steve Sealy, Denver Film & Digital, and members of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado.

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