

Top Ten Tips for the Flip.

by Meghan O'Rourke, Channel 17/Town Meeting TV

1. **HOLD STEADY:** If you have a tripod use it. Otherwise find another way to hold the camera still, brace your arms against your body, use a table or chair for support, remember not to hold your breath.

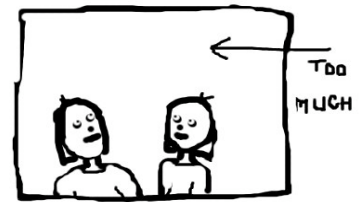
2. **NO ZOOM:** The zoom on the flip is digital NOT optic. The picture does not look as good when you are zoomed in. All movement will be exaggerated. IF YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR SUBJECT get closer.

3. **I CAN'T HEAR YOU!:** Audio makes or breaks a video. If your video can't be heard or understood it won't be watched. Get close to your subject. Stay focused on your subject. Point the camera directly at the source of your audio and stay close. Watch out for background noise or other random ambient sounds.

4. **COMPOSITION:** What is around your subject? What else is in the frame? The rule of thirds divides the screen with four evenly spaced lines, two horizontal, two vertical. Generally the point of interest, your subject, is located at the intersection of these lines.



5. **HEADROOM:** Make sure your subject isn't lost on the lower part of the screen .



6. **DON'T MOVE:** Or limit your movement as much as possible. Pans and tilts just end up looking shaky. As much as you can let the subject in front of you “do the action” while your camera records. When you do move, know where you want to go and what your shot will look like when you get there. Be intentional.

7. **LIGHTING:** Don't video into the sunlight. Watch out that your subject is lit from the front. Avoid harsh glares or direct sunlight that might make your subject squint.

8. Don't Turn the Camera sideways.

9. **SHOOT SHORT:** Take more and shorter clips. This will make editing easier when you are done. The best way to avoid taking too much video is to plan plan plan.

10. Make sure you are carrying some spare AA batteries.

To get started: Turn the camera on using the small pull down button on the side of the camera. Press the red button to record. Press the red button to stop. Trash can icon deletes a clip. Arrow button plays a clip for review.