

FIELD NOTES:

*ABC: Always Be Communicating. Discuss expectations/ideas before, during and after the shoot. Making things clear is key to getting as many angles of the story as possible.

*SHOW, DON'T TELL. Let your video tell the story. While shooting, shoot in a way that tells the story so that even if the viewer turns off the sound, they'd still know what the story is about.

*TAKE MENTAL NOTES. You're multitasking, so be on the look out and jot down observations you can refer back to when writing a script. This will be your cheat sheet & save you time when dealing with the technical logistics

*USE PROPS. When you're by yourself shooting and on-air, use a prop (I.D. Card, gaffers tape) to set up the stand up. Or ask a stranger to stand in for you.

*LESS IS MORE. Don't be scared to drop the big camera, leave a light behind, and run and gun. Sometimes it's the difference between the story or not.

*ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING TWICE. Try different versions so you're not tied into things.

*CREATIVITY: Correspondents should encourage VJs/DJs to try creative things. This can improve the quality of your piece. DJs should also push correspondents to try different stands up and be on the run with them in the field. Great stands up come from this.

*PACK FOR ANYTHING. You may start shooting and conducting an office interview, then get sent to cover a flood followed by a court case. Have a go bag & kit that is outfitted for multiple scenarios.

*CAPTURE MOMENTS. Deadline pending of course, let the camera roll on your subject, capture the unique, in-between moments. You're a voice for the voiceless let the viewer hear their voice.

*OPTICAL ILLUSION: After shooting an ISO interview, widen out your camera, stand in frame and ask a few more questions to create a 2-shot like you had a photographer with you.

*THE KEY IS IN THE CUT AWAY. Think about the essence of your piece, and make sure you get various shots showing that. Overshooting in this sense will help you in an edit crunch.

*SHOPPING LIST. Make a 'shopping list' of the shots you need for the story. As you wrap, take a look to make sure you've gotten all your elements before walking away.

*RECONNAISSANCE: VJ/DJs can be your reconnaissance team, helping plan ahead, getting elements on the ground and flagging ones that could turn into a bigger story than your day of air. Share editorial responsibility. This will encourage teamwork.