



# THE CREW VIDEO LESSONS

## LESSON 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE EFFECTIVE USE OF A VIDEO CAMERA

**AIM:** To introduce students to the principals of effective camera work. The discovery approach to learning is most effective when it comes to cameras

**GEAR REQUIRED:** Several video cameras (charged), some good quality video tapes, viewing facilities.

**INTRODUCTION:** Last lesson looked at issues of care and safety. The next step is get the equipment out and start shooting.

The best method of learning how to shoot effective video is to go out and do it. The learning process is as much about trial and error as it is about principles and techniques.

### ACTIVITY

NB throughout this exercise remember the guidelines for safe shooting covered last lesson.

Step 1 Divide into small groups.

Step 2 Each group takes a camera (charged) and moves into the playground.

Step 3 Each student within the group will then video approximately 1 min of footage. The aim is to get as higher quality footage as possible. (Try to make it look as if it were on television).

Each student must appear at least once in the footage obtained. Also include in your shots some footage that does not contain people. Other than that just shoot what you like and how you like!

Step 4 On return to the studio the class looks at each others work. Be kind but also be critical and work out what works and what doesn't.

Step 5 As you analyze the resulting footage write a list in your books of the principles and techniques that you see working. Use the heading:- 'Principles of Good Shooting'

You will find that there is no absolutely correct way to shoot however certain common guidelines will emerge.

**A POINT TO REMEMBER.** No camera operator ever arrives at the place where they understand the art form entirely. Even the experts are still experimenting, trying new things, learning, and that's what makes them experts!! Don't expect to get perfect results the first time.