



Video and Filmmaking project resource guide



What is this guide?

The purpose of this project resource guide is to help support your learning within the video and filmmaking project area. It provides step-by-step suggestions on how to get started and how to continue learning within the project area.

What is project learning?

We believe young people learn best by doing. In our program, you have the opportunity to choose project areas that interest you. We then offer opportunities for positive learning environments and guidance from adult mentors. We also encourage you to take leadership roles and learn independently.

What is the video and filmmaking project?

You can use videos in your daily life, for school projects or in a future career. Videography is art, communications and technology together. Becoming good at making videos teaches media literacy—the ability to fully understand media messages that come at you every day. In the video and filmmaking project, you can showcase video/film techniques, explore how a video/film camera works, create animation using claymation, dolls or Legos to create a stop-action video/film, film a documentary, or develop a trailer for a movie or event. These are just some of the many ways you can participate in this project. Let's get started!

Getting started with a video and filmmaking project

Figure out what you want to learn

First, think about what you want to learn about video and filmmaking. One way to do this could be to write down all your questions—anything you are currently wondering about or want to learn how to do. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What is the video production cycle?

- How do you film on a cell phone?
- How do I tell a good story with a video?
- What music should I use in my video? Where do I get it from?
- What are shot sizes?
- How do I add a voice-over in my video?
- What makes a quality video?
- How do I edit a video?
- How do I control lighting and sound?
- How do I make sound or other special effects?

Do some research

Next, find some resources that can guide you and provide answers to your questions. Here are a few general resources you may find useful.

- 4-H video professional Jalil Shabazz explains the basics of video storytelling in this [series of short videos](#).
- [How to Shoot Video that Doesn't Suck](#) (website and book by Steve Stockman)
- [Screenwriting for Teens: The 199 principles of screenwriting every budding writer must know](#) (book by Christina Hamlett)
- [Digital Filmmaking for Kids](#) (book by Nick Willoughby)
- [iMovie Tutorial for Beginners 2023](#) (video by Vince Opra)
- [Making Movies with Your iPhone](#) (book by Ben Harvell)
- [Filmmaking for Teens: Pulling off your shorts 2nd Ed.](#) (book by Troy Lanier and Clay Nichols)
- [What's a Foley artist?](#) Somebody who makes noise for a living! (video)

Identify your project

Now it's time to narrow down your research into a specific project focus. What do you want to do? Here are some examples of video and filmmaking projects:

- Learn various video/film techniques, such as wide shot, close-up, panning, tilt, zoom, tracking shot, overhead shot, low/high angle, and point-of-view.
- Film a stop-motion video using claymation, dolls, or Lego, etc.
- Make a short video that demonstrates special effects, such as green screen, motion tracking, time-lapse, slow motion, filters or color grading, particle effects, split screen, overlay effects, or creative transitions.
- A video/film using data from trail camera or time lapse camera (stop action video) or drone with attached camera (see note related to drone use).
- Make a documentary on environmental issues such as the plight of pollinators, pollution, soil erosion, or the steps taken to improve the environment

- Make a documentary about a family member or interesting member of your community.
- Make a trailer for a movie or event (real or fictional).
- Make a video that tells a story using your friends and family as actors.
- Make a commercial of a real or fictional product.

Do your project!

Once you know what you want to do, it's time to do it! This is the fun part. You may get messy or encounter challenges, but in 4-H we learn by doing. It's all part of the learning process! You can ask others for help and ideas. Be sure to take pictures or video as you go or have some other way to record what you're doing and how it's going.

Reflect

The most important part of doing a project is the learning that happens as a result. Think about:

- What was my goal for this project when I began?
- What am I learning from this project that I didn't know before? OR What was the most challenging part of this project? Why?
- Did you have fun doing the project? What would you do differently?
- What am I learning about myself by doing this project?

Share your work

After you finish your project, it's time to share what you learned! Sharing your new skills and getting others excited about your project is a great way to continue learning and can be a valuable way to serve your community! Here are some ideas:

- Share your project at school, with your 4-H club or other out-of-school time program. Explain what you did to make your video and what you learned.
- Ask to set up an info table at your local library, community center, or community event such as a festival or farmer's market.
- Develop an exhibit to take to your local county fair or the Minnesota State Fair through the 4-H program. Head back to the video and filmmaking project page for more information about how to [showcase your project at a county or state fair](#).

Take your learning further

You've wrapped up one project...what's next? What questions did this project spark for you? What are you inspired to learn more about? You can dig into those

questions with another video and filmmaking project, or you may want to check out another related project area, such as:

- [Technology](#) (computers and robotics)
- [Photography](#)
- [Creative writing](#)

Use what you have learned in 4-H to produce a video to supplement your school work.

Explore these future study and career opportunities related to video and filmmaking!

- You can study [Cinema & Media Culture at the University of Minnesota](#)
- Investigate being a [film and video editor or camera operator](#), a [producer or director](#), a [special effects artist and animator](#).
- You could work in [media and communications](#) in a number of different ways at various companies and organizations.
- Investigate one of these other film making careers
 - Work in advertising, helping to sell a product for a company.
 - Work for a sporting team, taking video of the team in action.
 - Work on marketing a product or service for a government agency.
 - Work for a video company that produces films for various clients.
 - Work for a company like public TV, help with production or work on filming a program.
 - Work with a film company to produce a film.
 - Work on an animation film for a company or as a free-lance videographer.
 - Work for a school district to record meetings or market the school.
 - Identify and interview people with careers in the video/film industry and ask their advice for getting a job.

