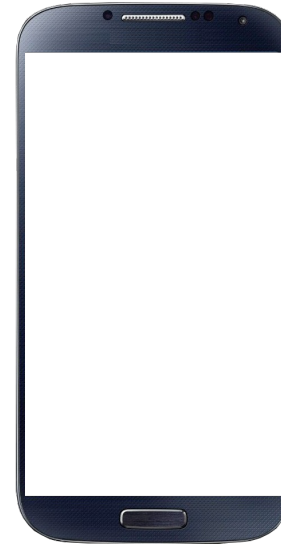


Using cameras at home -Framing

Getting your video, just right.

Here you will find some practical advice on setting up your camera. This advice works for all sorts of cameras: webcams, smartphone cameras and video cameras.



Eyes on the ball



- Your goal here is to get a better result, not a perfect result. Keep that in mind, video is only a medium, don't let the finer points of great cinema distract you from doing your job as a teacher, a job you know well.

Why use video of yourself while teaching?

A question you should ask yourself is "Will video add value for my students learning?"

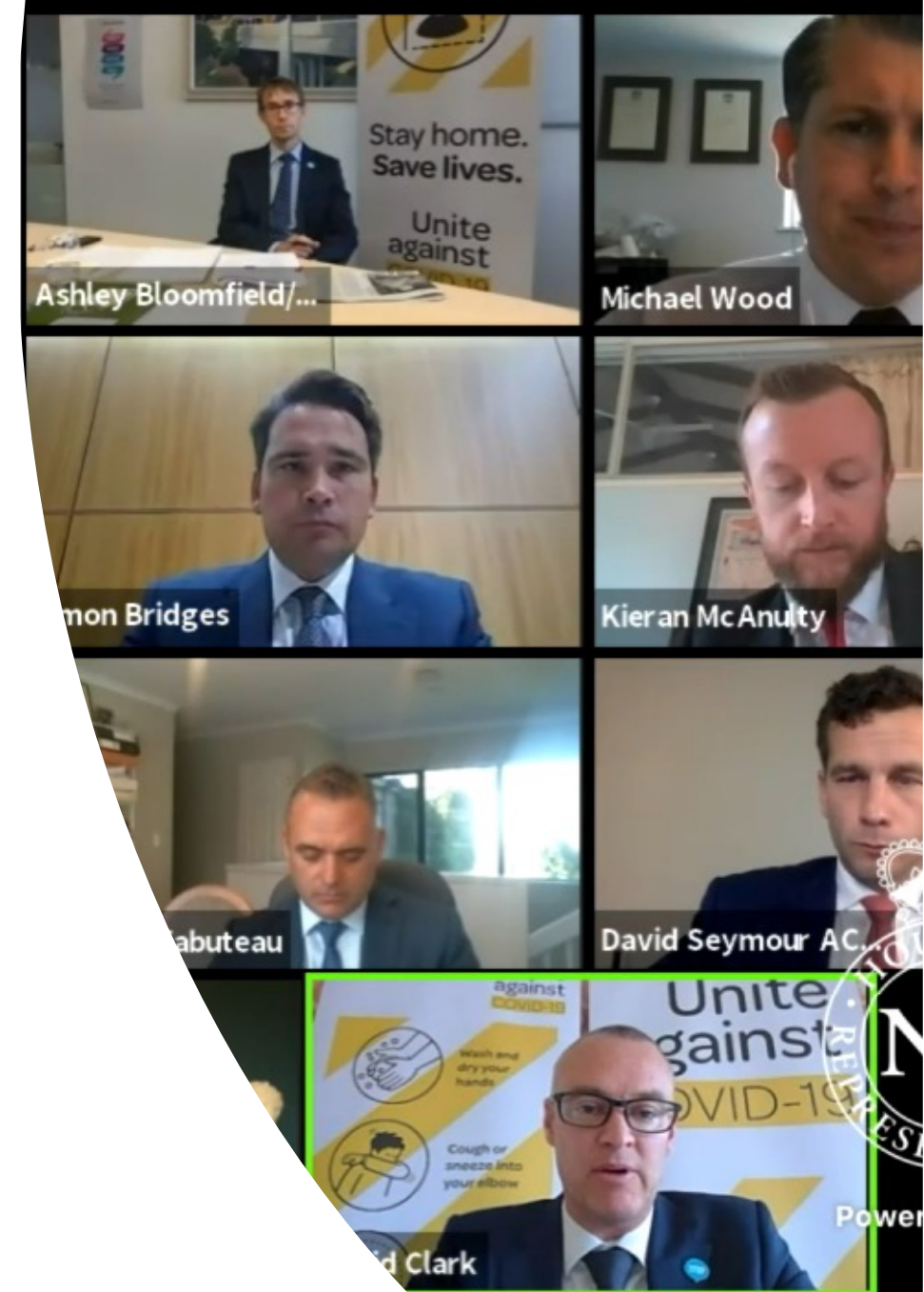
Imagine you are only teaching via a telephone to students and then you had the chance to add video. Among many things video gives you the ability to be personable, expressive and add emphasis. This adds layers of information that rides above voice or text alone, expression and body language is a powerful part of communication.

Framing: what's wrong?

A question you should ask yourself is
“How do I want my frame to look?”

Our leaders in a lot of ways are just like
us and can help us out here by offering
real examples that we can analyze and
learn from. *I'm honestly not picking on
anyone :)*

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Framing

There are four main points to consider here for framing:

1. How high the camera should be (Lift)
2. The angle of the camera (Pan and Tilt X,Y)
3. Size of framing "Z" (How far from the camera are you sitting and how much of the frame should you occupy?)
4. The Background (is it too boring or is it too distracting?)



Ask yourself: "What do you like about this framing?"

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Hon Ruth Dyson:

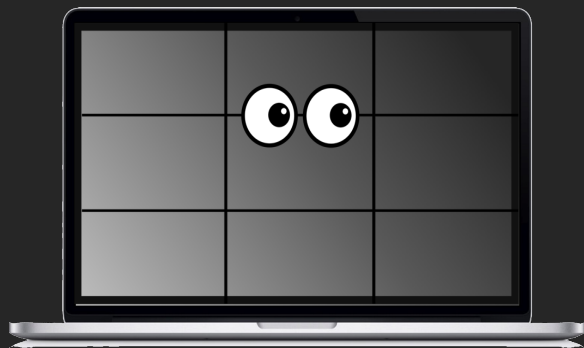
Too much headroom above head. (Two fingers is a good measurement) Ruth should be in the Centre of the frame. The Camera should be lifted to be inline and parallel with her face.

Michael Wood:

Not enough headroom. Subject too close to camera. Background is not too distracting.

Sir David Skegg:

Good use of headroom. Background Interesting. Camera needs lifting. Camera needs tilting down to be parallel with face.



Tip: Try to put your eyes in the top 3rd of frame and still maintain some headroom.



Fixing the framing

Now we will look at some practical solutions to fix your framing:

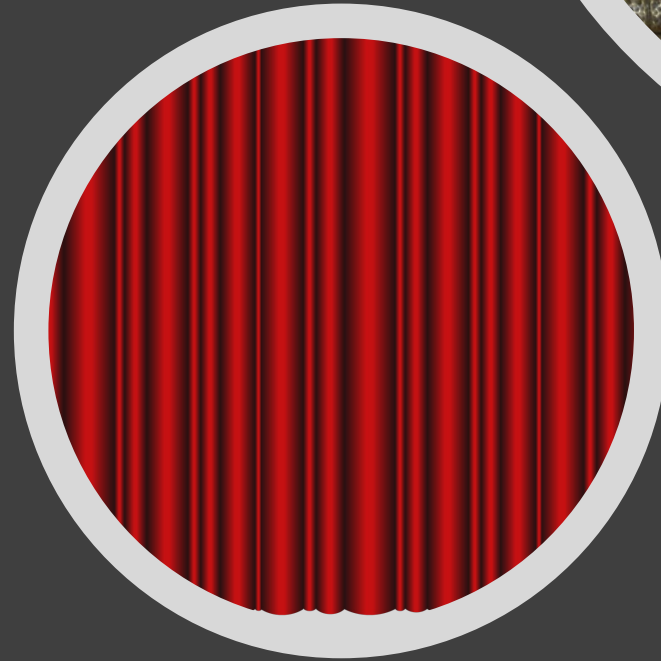
Move your camera! If you have a Desktop PC, Mac, Laptop, Smartphone or Video camera, the framing principals are all the same:

1. Level camera in Pan and Tilt (X,Y) Position yourself or the camera so you fill the frame from just below your armpits to the top of your head plus two fingers. Try to have your eyes in the top third of frame if you can. Make sure the camera lens is parallel with the front of your face. Tilt the screen or camera (Up/down) lift the camera (Up/down) or move (closer or further away)
2. Make sure the background is not brighter than your face (Cameras can't expose or focus easily in this scenario).
3. Try to have a background that is not too boring or too distracting (Boring can be distracting)



Fixing the framing

- Find a suitable background, this could be a bookshelf or even just a curtain



Fixing the framing

Tilt your screen
or camera to be
parallel with your
face



Lift your device or camera to
eye level
(Careful not to topple)

Break the rules

- Rules are meant to be learnt then adapted. Use this information to add value to what you are doing. If you want to try a few different framing approaches have a play and test out what works for you. Take time to reflect on areas you could improve on.