



September 11, 2001: Ten Years Later

Thank you for participating in PBS NewsHour Extra's 9/11 multimedia project.

Please take a few moments to read this informative guide. It will discuss important topics such as video requirements, interview guidelines, interview questions and how to submit your video.

If you have any questions or run into any obstacles, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to assist in any way that we can.

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Video requirements:

1. Raw, unedited videos should be approximately 5-8 minutes long.
2. Participants should answer questions to the best of their abilities.
3. Participants should follow guidelines provided by the PBS NewsHour team.

Pre-interview suggestions:

1. Work with a partner. It might be easier to have someone help you compose the shot and hit the "record" button.
2. We understand that not all participants might have access to a consumer video camera. Reach out to family members and friends. Also, most schools have video equipment readily available for check out.

Interview guidelines:

1. When selecting an interview setting, choose a quiet location. Find a spot with soft surfaces that absorb sound. (For example, sit on a couch rather than a kitchen chair.) Be aware of humming sounds. Avoid being in the same room as a computer, air-conditioner unit, or fridge. What you're trying to do is create a sound booth wherever you are for the interview. Avoid places with lots of echoes like gymnasiums or hallways.
2. Lighting is very important. We suggest using natural light. It's free, readily available and effective. Use the photos below as reference.

Exhibit A: (Below) Veronica is sitting directly in front of a window. Notice how dark her face is and how washed out the background is. You want to avoid this.



Exhibit B: (Below) The window is now to the left of Veronica's face.



Also, here's a link to an informative video on using natural light:

http://www.ehow.com/video_2370069_using-natural-light-video-production.html

3. Camera settings. Each camera has its own set of unique camera settings. If you, your friend or family member feels comfortable adjusting the settings for better image quality, then please feel free to do so. If not, please shoot on automatic mode.

4. Mount your video camera on a tripod. If you don't own a tripod, then that's OK. You'll just have to be creative. This might require you to sit on the floor and position the camera on a stable tabletop. **Shaky video will not be used.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NewsHour team.

5. Composing your shot. Use the screen grab below as a reference as to how to compose your shot. Pick an uncluttered background for your shot. Again, if you have any questions regarding composition, we're here to walk you through it.



Also, because most of you will not be working with an external microphone, please position the camera as close to you as possible. In other words, when setting up the camera, instead of zooming in, move the actual camera to get a close-up shot.

4. Hit "record" once and start answering the questions. Avoid touching the camera while it's recording. Also refrain from zooming in or out while the interview is taking place.

5. Remember to pause between answering questions.

Questions:

- How have the events of 9/11 impacted your everyday life, directly or indirectly?
- Your generation has sometimes been referred to as the '9/11 generation.' What does that mean to you? Do you agree with that label? How do you think the events of 9/11 have impacted your generation?
- What do you remember most from the day Sept. 11, 2001 and from the weeks and months that followed?
- Many critics say the human cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was borne by just a few. Should there be a national service requirement for all young Americans?
- This question is optional, if you feel you have something to say on the topic. How would you describe current relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the United States?

Submitting the video/FTP Instructions:

1. Visit the website: <http://ftp.macneil-lehrer.com>

2. Log in.

loginid: guest

password: newshour

3. Select "OK"

4. Choose the folder called "extra," then the folder called "Sept. 11 voices"

5. Choose the button "upload" and select the file you want to place in the folder

Submission:

1. Videos must be uploaded to our server no later than August 11, 2011.