

# Motivation for Shots

★ **WIDE (WS):** This shot is used when the filmmakers want the audience to understand the surroundings. We can get a sense of where the characters are and where they are located. Most scenes will open with a wide shot that gives us this knowledge. This is known as an establishing shot.

★ **MEDIUM (MS):** The audience sees less of the surrounding area, but can see more detail, such as a character's face. However, the shot is still far enough out that a portion of the character's body can be seen, allowing the audience to see any necessary hand gestures.

★ **CLOSE-UP (CU):** A close-up gives the audience much more detail as we can now get a good sense of character emotion. A close up allows us to be closer to the character, and possibly relate to him or her more.

★ **EXTREME CLOSE-UP (XCU):** This shot gives us extreme detail of a person or an object. We sacrifice all outside perspective, but we are given an intimate understanding of the subject.

## CAMERA MOVEMENTS:

★ **PAN:** moving the camera from side to side (horizontally) from a stationary position.

★ **TRACK:** moving the camera horizontally. In this shot the camera actually moves as if it is sliding on track.

★ **TILT:** moving the camera up and down (vertically) from a stationary position.

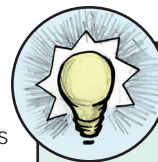
★ **ZOOM IN OR OUT:** moving in or out on an object from a wide shot to a close up or vice versa.

## CAMERA ANGLES:

★ **HIGH ANGLE:** shot looking down at something or someone. Creates a sense of vulnerability or inferiority for the subject shot from this angle.

★ **LOW ANGLE:** a shot in which the subject is above the camera. It usually conveys a sense of the subject's importance.

★ **DUTCH:** a shot in which the camera is tilted to the side so that the horizon is not parallel to the bottom of the frame.



### Tips and Tricks...

- Keep in mind that the size of the object in the frame has a direct relation to its importance in the scene. Only focus closely on an object that holds great relevance to your film.
- Good filmmakers will use a variety of shots to tell their story. Try using each type of shot at least once in a scene. This will help your film's pacing, add excitement to the scene, and keep the audience engaged.