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Grab Your Gear: Review Notes

The Best Equipment is the Equipment You Have Right Now

- It's affordable.
- It probably matches your skill level.
- You can always buy new gear when your skill outstrips what you have now.

Today, Many Devices Can do Video

- You probably have an old camcorder.
- Your Digital Picture Camera probably can take movies (sometimes better than your camcorder).
- You might also have a Flash Recorder or even a mobile phone that can make videos.

What are Your Audio Possibilities?

- Does the camera you're using have a plug for a microphone?
- Test your camera's internal microphone and see how the sound is.
- If you can't record decent audio with your camera, don't be afraid to make a voice-over.

Reminder: a voice-over is a separate audio track where you lay your voice over your video.

Creative Tripods

- The purpose of a tripod is to get your camera level with the horizon and keep it pointed at your subject.
- Look for flat surfaces that can mimic tripods, like bookshelves or tables.
- Don't be afraid to be creative. For example: The threads on many lamp shades made in the USA match the threads on a standard tripod connector.
- Use a beanbag to level a camera on an uneven surface.

Finding Light

- There are many different sources of light.
- Natural light -- The light from the sun is some of the best light to use.
- Reflector -- you can bounce sunlight, and other light sources using white, or shiny objects to light your subject.
- Practical lights like desk lamps or shop lights can make very effective low budget light sources.

What Will You Do?

- Your goal shouldn't be to make the perfect video, or the video that someone else would make.
- Make a simple video that's easy for you.
- Keep it short, and plan to make another short video later to incorporate another message, or a new technique.
- Short, easy, and frequent videos keep your home base better informed and more involved.
- Have courage! Your imperfect video communicates better than a video that never gets made.