

Guidelines for Videotaping

Viewers of the Democracy Dialogues videos are invited to videotape their contributions to the Dialogues and submit them for use in future videos.

What would be most helpful and most likely to be used are head shots of sound bite length. Ten seconds is better than 20; 20 is better than 30, and so on.

Some people can easily speak in soundbites; others can't without some practice. Few of the cast of *Deadly Mistakes?* did. The advantage of doing so is that you control your words; not the editor. Learning to speak in soundbites is part of learning media savvy.

If you prefer, just speak any way that is comfortable to you, as concisely as possible.

Longer clips, such as may be required to answer complex questions, should be especially well thought out. Where appropriate, you may include source citations for the study guide.

It is generally best to look and speak directly into the camera, but it's up to you. Be creative!

Getting good sound is harder than getting good picture. Get the microphone close to you when you are speaking. Best are usually boom microphones or lapel microphones or hand held microphones, but if necessary you can get acceptable sound with a microphone that is built into, or attached to, the camera, if you are careful and are not too far away. On the other hand, if the camera is too close to the subject, the face may appear distorted.

If you shoot indoors, you should probably adjust the light or lights so that the shadows, especially the eye shadows, are not too deep. Fancy lighting is not necessary. You can use an ordinary lamp or lamps, but it is usually best to avoid fluorescent lighting, which can yield unpleasant colors. If you shoot outdoors, try to avoid direct sunlight, which casts harsh shadows.

Shoot a test, and see how it looks and sounds.

Please don't send e-mail with attachments (I won't get them), but send the videos to me at the address below. Mini DV and DV format is best, but vhs is OK. Other formats are difficult for me, so send an e-mail inquiry before sending any other format, since I may not be able to use them. And by all means send an e-mail if you have questions.

With the tape, I'll need a signed, dated release. If you are under 18, have your parent or guardian sign too.

Walter Miale
Green World Center
889 Old Notch Road
Sutton, Quebec
J0E 2K0 Canada
waltermiale "at" greenworldcenter.org