

# How to make a video

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KAREN FOLEY: Hi, and welcome back to The Student Hub Live.

Well, we've set the audience at home a challenge. We would like some videos from you. Because we've been getting loads of selfies and we're going to go and have a look at some of those in just a minute. But we'd also like to have your videos. So you might have thought something through and think, actually, I've got a bit of a different take on that.

Or you may want to tell us something you've learned. You might want to tell us about what it's like being an OU student and how excited, anxious, or whatever it is that you're feeling right now. You might want to tell us about the module. We've been having lots of interesting discussions about the modules and what's in them. So if you know what's in your module, you might want to tell us.

We've had lots of videos, but unfortunately we can't show any more of them because they contravene some of the laws. So I have Janet Sumner here in the studio because you know all things media, don't you, Janet? Welcome.

JANET SUMNER: Well, hopefully, yes. What's happening is that people are sending-- we've had a lovely video about Lenny Henry and the Open University, but it's got lots of pictures of Lenny Henry that are obviously copyrighted, so we can't show that.

We've had another lovely one, but it's got a soundtrack over it from the Proclaimers, so we can't show that either. So that's the real key thing. So if people are reaching for their phones and their handy cams now, it needs to be something that you've shot and filmed yourself that doesn't contravene any of these copyright laws.

KAREN FOLEY: I know, selfies are so easy but they are one-dimensional. Or, two-dimensional I suppose. What do we want then, Janet? So we would like videos about people's experiences, their thoughts. How long should these sorts of things be?

JANET SUMNER: Well, standard videos that go out on YouTube. They're about two to three minutes. So a script is never made better by making it longer. So keep it short and snappy. And I would say, think about the story that you want to tell beforehand. Have a story, have an idea in mind, kind of rehearse it through before you actually do the recording, and then you'll get a good video together.

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah. So how might students do this? What equipment do they need?

JANET SUMNER: I've got some props. I never thought I'd be seen dead on camera with one of these. It is the infamous selfie stick. So you can use that with your smartphone. And you can film your study space or your study buddy. There seems to be a prevalence for cats as study buddies.

KAREN FOLEY: Yes, cats are ideal.

JANET SUMNER: So yeah. It has a connector.

And the other thing is, is you can also get these little microphones now that can be plugged into mobile phones. So you could get really good sound if you're going for really high-quality video. But you should be able to get away with doing something like this.

Now, the important thing is to have the phone horizontally. Of course, the classic selfie is the one that we take like that with the phone vertically. But for showing it on a TV screen or on a computer screen, you need to have your phone horizontally.

KAREN FOLEY: Of course, because our screen is horizontal, isn't it? OK.

And if people don't have a self-- I've seen people using coat hangers. Those ones that you hang your trousers up with? Putting phones on that.

So if people just have a smartphone, they could put it on something or hold it, could they?

JANET SUMNER: Yeah. I mean, you can hold it in your hand. But obviously you're going to get quite a lot of camera movement if you're holding it in your hand. You can prop it up on a bookcase.

I've also brought this. And this is known as a gorilla. It's a little tripod. And you can get a phone attachment for that. So you can stick it up on a tripod. Try and get the phone at eye height or the camera at eye height so that you're not sort of looking down or looking up and looking a bit deranged. Give yourself a fighting chance.

Prop it up on something-- bookshelf. And then you can get in front of it. And then you can do your piece to camera. You can talk about your study area. You can talk about the module that you're doing. You can introduce your cat, or whatever you like. And then you'll get a nice, steady shot.

And the other thing is to kind of let the action unfold in front of the camera. There are a couple of things that people often do wrong in the classic home videos. Our number one cameraman, Gerard, is going to show us what those are.

KAREN FOLEY: OK, good. Lovely.

JANET SUMNER: So hang onto your hat. So one of the things that people do, if they want to show kind of an environment, is something called a whip pan where they flash the camera around. And that's what Gerard's doing right now. He's whip panning for us.

And the other classic thing that people do with cameras is they like to zoom in on the action. And that's called tromboning.

KAREN FOLEY: Ah, yes. Right.

JANET SUMNER: Which makes people feel really seasick. So Gerard's showing us a bit of tromboning now. So try to avoid doing that. As I say, get the camera nice and steady and sort of let the action unfold in front of the camera.

The other important thing is sound. So try not to have-- I mean, these selfie sticks extend to enormous length. But if you are just using the microphone on the phone, then obviously you want to stay quite close to the phone. Otherwise, it will sound like it's been recorded through a sock in the garden shed. And you don't want that. So you want to try and get decent sound.

Try and get somewhere where there's no wind, there's not a lot of noise, anything like that, going on. Again, be careful about music and stuff in the background. Just checking my notes.

Oh, talking about backgrounds. We don't want people to make a crime watch video. So try not to film with a bright window behind you and blazing sunshine because you will be silhouetted out. So sort of look at your background, think about your background, and give yourself a fighting chance.

Again with copyright, be aware of what's in the background. Especially if you've got family photos and stuff like that. Or branded things-- boxes of corn flakes. Other brands are available, obviously. So do think a little bit about your backgrounds.

And pretty much, talk directly into the lens and do your story. It's as simple as that.

KAREN FOLEY: Brilliant. So this copyright thing, that's really important as you've mentioned. We have some lovely, lovely videos. And our students are really creative. And I'd love you to put in the chat what sorts of things you might like to see other students make videos about. So maybe you can suggest-- I know cats are very popular. I mean, cats on study books. I think if we can get a few of those, it'd be very nice in study spaces. But I'd like to see what sorts of things you think would be interesting.

And maybe if there's an interesting idea you think, oh, I could make that as well. Just returning to this idea then of copyright, Janet. So basically, people can be as creative as they want to, but they then can't show other people's images. So it's your own stuff, is that what people can include?

JANET SUMNER: I think it's safest to film and record everything yourself. And as I say, be aware of what's in the background. Your own voice talking.

Don't go anywhere near music unless you've written the song yourself and you're actually playing and singing it yourself. It's great to put music on things, but it causes copyright problems straightaway. As does including any kind of images that you haven't self-photographed or self-recorded.

KAREN FOLEY: Our students are so clever with all of this. And like will say, OK, can you do a video?

And they'll edit and get all of the stuff together. They really, really are. But I guess the message here is we want it really, really simple. And we just want to have you. And we want to know what you think about things. But I know we've got some questions at the social media desk. HJ.

HJ: Yeah, there were some questions brought up about copyright. And Alan said he spent two days working on a video and he completely forgot about the copyright. But some people are

just asking about general tips. Some people want to stream their videos live to people. There are some services to do that, aren't there? Which is fantastic.

And there is a bit of discussion about hobnobs. So maybe we'll get some videos about people's favourite study snacks. I think I'd like that.

JANET SUMNER: Yeah. Study space, study buddy, study snacks. Perfect.

HJ: It goes together perfectly.

KAREN FOLEY: We've also had some ideas about some homemade selfie sticks as well. David's been suggesting bamboo cane and gaffer tape.

JANET SUMNER: Gaffer tape is a must for anybody who works in media. I never travel without gaffer tape. And I'm--

KAREN FOLEY: It makes a good bracelet.

JANET SUMNER: There's plenty of it in the studio today. So yeah. Just be creative, like coat hanger, bamboo stick. Anything, really. I mean, it doesn't have to be one of these posh jobbies. Apparently, they break quite easily as well. So if you are spending money on a selfie stick, treat it with caution.

KAREN FOLEY: So what sort of things do you think that we would like to see in terms of our students sending us? Because I think this all sounds very good. We get the idea that you just have a camera, position it somewhere, or hold it in some way, shape, or form. Move it slowly with nothing too obtuse in the background. What do you think some of the things that are students-- you've seen a lot of the live chat. What are some of the things that you think students might like to know about?

We've seen a lot of students saying they're feeling very anxious. It's really nice to be part of a community. What sorts of things do you think people might like to say?

Because I'm sitting there thinking, well, I've seen all these selfies. And I'd love to know what people sound like, for example. That's the difference between a video and a selfie is that you can say, hi, I'm Laura, and this what had happened. Laura, if you could make one about exactly how you did that thing in France where you asked for a [INAUDIBLE] , that would be very interesting. Because language is something that can come across, accents and things. It makes it so rich. What sorts of things would you like to see?

JANET SUMNER: I think it's about people telling personal stories. That's what makes really good captivating video, captivating TV if you like. It's always about the personal stories. So maybe it's a bit of a history about who you are and how you got to where you are now and why you're doing this module or why you're doing this course. I think those would be nice stories to hear.

And also, perhaps why you're doing it and what your hopes and ambitions for the future are. So I think it would be great to have something reflective, but also forward looking as well.

KAREN FOLEY: No, absolutely. And of course, a selfie can't tell a story like a video can. So it'd be so nice to be able to have some of those stories, maybe about how people have got to where they're studying, how they're finding things.

And also, we had a lot of students giving reviews of previous modules they had done. Saying, oh, I have done that one. So it'd be nice to hear maybe what was in that module and what you thought about it. That would be very useful as well.

JANET SUMNER: And I think also, perhaps news-related stories. I mean, I'm a scientist, so obviously my interest is in science. And there's just been the recent NASA report of the water flowing on Mars. Maybe people could comment on news stories that's relating to the modules that they're studying as well and hear their thoughts about that. That would be really nice, too.

KAREN FOLEY: Absolutely. Because we've got a lot of content. So have a look through the programme. And it might be something that you've seen earlier today that you think I have something to say about that as well. So send us a video about that.

And any, the don't breach copyright to our list of laws to follow we will show. But really, I guess the message here is, it's really, really easy and simple to do just from a smartphone, just holding it up, thinking about something to say. Making sure that you don't have a huge, sort of sign or something in the background.

JANET SUMNER: We don't want a plant growing out of your head.

KAREN FOLEY: No. But we wouldn't ban it if you did. Not moving the camera too fast. But most importantly, it's that story, isn't it? And just thinking about what you want to say in the way that sort of selfies can't tell us.

JANET SUMNER: It's really simple. Prop the phone up, press the Record button, talk to the camera, that's all you have to do. And tell your story. It'd be lovely to hear from people.

KAREN FOLEY: Absolutely. Well, let's go to the social media desk and see some of the selfies that have been sent in. And maybe some of the people who have sent selfies could now have a go-- now that we've shown you how easy it is to do-- at making a short video. HJ and Rachel. Oh, Helen.

HJ: Oh, no.

HELEN: That's OK. I think I inadvertently started the chat talking about study snacks. It was my fault, mea culpa. What it was, was I said, I'm glad to be back in the chat. I just had a cupper and a custard cream. And that started the ball rolling. So lots of people saying that they like homemade flapjacks which chocolate. They like Twix. Somebody saying they really like KFC, but it gives them a greasy keyboard, unfortunately.

HJ: Have to pick the right type of food for studying, don't you? Yes, we said about selfies. And I did hear that we may have--

[DING]

There we go. We've got something in our inbox. I always get excited about this part. Pop that there.

Oh, no. My envelope's popped out. I may need some help getting that. Unfortunately, we are trapped here. We're not allowed out. Ah, brilliant. Let's have a look at what we've got. We always love these selfies.

Oh, there you go. We were talking about pets. We've got Andy's little helper. That's lovely, isn't it? But she looks like she's up to no good, doesn't she? She doesn't want Andy studying, I don't think, in that picture. She wants some attention there.

And Amy as well sent in a lovely selfie. So we'll pop that on our board as well. Remember, you can do that, [studenthub@open.ac.uk](mailto:studenthub@open.ac.uk). And the hashtag-- Twitter is going lovely. It's #studenthublive15. I nearly forgot it there.

HELEN: Carrying on with the food theme, Aziz has been listening to us while he's been eating his lunch. So we've got a nice photo there of him with his headphones in and his lunch in front of him.

And also, Omar is actually from Iraq. So that prompts me to put a nice magnet on our big world map in Iraq. So that's just there. There we go.

HJ: Well, we've loved them. It's absolutely fantastic coming in. Keep the study snacks, actually. I'm getting quite hungry, actually. Actually, that might not be a good idea to carry on about the study snacks.

Yeah, we've loved the selfies. And we're looking forward to some of these videos as well. There's been some suggestions that we should get some study tips. I always love a good study tip. So let us know. And we've had some wonderful OU stories as well.

So if you want to tell them, we've had an expert view of how to do it. So yeah, we're looking forward to them I think.

KAREN FOLEY: Those a great ideas. I see you're still getting the spam, though, HJ.

HJ: Yes, unfortunately we are getting the spam. I don't know how that happens. But apparently everyone gets it.

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah.

HJ: That's just something we've got to deal with, with all these inboxes.

KAREN FOLEY: I know. Well, we do love receiving your mail irrespective. So do keep sending us your selfies and we'll show them like we have been doing. It's great to see who everybody is. And it really makes us feel part of a community as well. It's lovely. And I do hope that you'll have a go at making some videos and we can show those later in the breaks.

Well, we are now going to end the session. Thank you, Janet, for coming and talking to us and making it so simple. I'm really hoping that everyone can have a go. I'm certainly going to have a go during our lunch break because we're very, very, very hungry, likewise are most of

you at home. So I think we need to have a little break. But don't worry, because what we're going to do for the first time ever, is we're going to do a replay of all my favourite bits from the last Student Hub Live and the one before that. So we're going to be having some very interesting discussion.

The chat's going to be open, but it isn't going to be live. So that might seem a bit odd, because we're often, as you know, referring to the live chat in these sessions. So just have a go, chatting away. Talk about whatever you want to talk about. Build each other up to get the courage to do some of these great ideas. The study tips one I really like. We always could do with more study tips. And also, how to keep your desk so tidy. Because I know that's a bit of an issue for me as it is for HJ. So we'd really like to know how you go about doing that and organising yourselves so well. Very, very impressive.

We will be back at 5:40. I have the vice chancellor here. And we're going to ask him a lot of questions, so I need some more of those. We've already had quite a few coming through on the mail. So if you can let us know if you've got any questions for him.

You might like to know what he does, what he's interested in doing, things about the Open University, et cetera. And also, for those of you who are watching in the Live Only button, you might want to do the Watch and Engage where you can also chat along with people at home. You just go back to the website and click on that Live and Interactive button. And there you can have a computer-- Open University computer username, which is very, very quick and easy to do. And then you can see the chat and participate as well. And we will see you at 5:40 for vice chancellor's question time.

Then, we have the Wheel of Ologies quiz. We were talking about epistemology earlier. That is one of the ologies that we'll be discussing in our quiz. You can play along at home. It's load and loads and loads of fun. So do join us just after 6 o'clock for that.

And then we're going to be talking about learning technologies and living in a digital world. And how we're studying some of the stuff. And how you getting all your materials and sort of reading them online is changing the way that we study. So that will be a very interesting conversation.

And then we have Meg John from our counselling department, who's going to talk about managing relationships while you study. Quite a big issue for students. And I'm really hoping that we can have some of your advice and tips from that. And that actually might be quite an interesting one to make a video on.

So if you've got advice about how you communicate with your friends and family about your studies and how important that is, how you're sort of fitting in work and life, et cetera, around your studying, that will be very interesting. And we can show those this evening, too.

But that's all from the live stuff from us now till 5:40. I will see you back then. Enjoy those hobnobs, custard creams, and all the other foods that you're planning on eating. And good luck getting the McDonald's in for the children. Do get a bit of fresh air between now and then, and I will see you at 5:40.

[MUSIC PLAYING]