



## Mrs. Cicerone's Basic Picture & Video Taking Tips

**Know the parts of your camera.** Locate the power button, the shutter button, the zoom controls, the mode dial and the menu button. Also locate the compartment(s) that houses the battery and memory card. Turn the camera on and become familiar with the icons on the LCD screen, then press the menu button and peruse the available options.

**Lighting is everything!** You should have good lighting, with the light source behind you (the photographer) and not behind your subject. Use a flash where lighting is dim. Lighting can be used to enhance your subject or image; by changing your position you can change the light.

**Carefully frame your image.** What you see on the LCD screen is what you'll see on your picture or video. Take into account that real-life is 3D, but the picture is 2D (flat). Sometimes you'll want to walk a few steps closer to your subject or step a few steps back. Don't get too close, or the image will be blurry. Use the zoom feature, but remember that it won't zoom the sound, so when using a video camera without an external mic, it's best to move closer rather than use the zoom. When appropriate, use the "rule of thirds" and place your subject 1/3 away from the edges of your frame.

**Make sure your image is in focus.** If you're using a digital camera, pressing the shutter button down half-way will focus, and your image will appear in green brackets when fully focused. If the brackets aren't framing your focal point, try again. Don't finish pressing the button all the way down until you see the green brackets around your focal point. (Note: Some cameras have a green dot in the upper right corner of the LCD display when your image is in focus. If you are using landscape mode, you may not see brackets.)

**Pay attention to sound when recording video.** Video cameras have small microphones that will pick up noise as well as the sounds you intend it to pick up. Select a quiet area to record in. If that is not possible, consider using voice-over and background music to add the audio in later. For interviews, where possible, connect an external mic to the video camera.

**Stay still and hold the camera steady.** Use a tripod whenever possible, especially when taking video footage or zooming in. Because you're moving with the camera, it's hard to tell while shooting if the image is unsteady. When later viewing your image or playing back your video, it will be very obvious and sometimes dizzying!

**Take lots of pictures!!** You can never be certain your shot is perfect until you see it on a bigger screen, so take lots of extra pictures. Don't be afraid to experiment and take as many pictures as you like. With digital cameras, it doesn't cost anything to take more pictures 😊