



Photo tips: using a smartphone

A photo can be a great photo no matter what it's taken with. If do not have access to a camera, here are some things to keep in mind when taking photos with a smartphone.

1. **Hold your phone correctly:** The initial reflex is to hold the phone up with one hand, in front of us to snap the shot... Chances are that your arm movement will make the photo blurry. The best way to go about it is to use both your hands to keep the phone steady. If your setting permits, rest your phone on a flat surface to add stability to your shot.
2. **Take more than one photo:** Ask your subject if they are comfortable with you taking multiple photos of them. Taking multiple shots of the same subject will allow you to try a few different angles and choose amongst the best ones.
3. **Get Closer:** When getting closer, you usually have more control over the lighting of your subject.
4. **Edit, don't filter:** It's nearly impossible to get the perfect shot, which is where editing comes in. If you wish to edit your photo, there is a plethora of free editing apps available like the excellent SnapSeed, Photoshop Express, or iPhoto. These apps will let you make easy adjustments, like straightening, contrasting, sharpness, and color directly on your device.
5. **Embrace spontaneity:** If your subject is comfortable with experimenting, learn to work the "scene" and catch the right moment. Perhaps you'd get a better photo of your subject by standing closer, further away, from a lower angle, or a higher one.
6. **Crop, don't zoom:** The second you start zooming, you significantly lose picture quality and cause pixelation. To make sure your picture doesn't end up blurry or grainy, simply get closer or crop the image.
7. **See the light:** Good light is especially important in mobile photography. Make sure you look for right amount of light: window light is great since it's often soft not harsh on your subjects. **Protip:** avoid using the flash in your smartphone, it will most likely cast shadows or a yellow light over your model.
8. **Background:** Keep it simple and keep in mind that your model is your focal point. A few ideas: outdoors, a bright wall. You can also ask the interviewee to include a photo or an object that speaks to their experience. Example: tools of their trade or an object that illustrates how the person contributes or that has a symbolic meaning to them.
9. **Bonus tip:** Don't forget to clean your lens before you shoot and have fun!