

## Introduction to Cinematography Part One: Camera Shot Types & Camera Angle

Essentially, this aspect of Key Elements of Film Form relates to the use of cameras and their lenses to capture photographic images across space using a range of adaptable devices and techniques. The characteristics of cinematography will be affected by:

- Type of camera used (analogue, digital, hand-held etc).
- Type of film stock used (the width of the film loaded in a camera will affect the way the shots look).
- How focus is manipulated (what you can see clearly and what is blurred).
- The positioning of the camera in relation to the subject.
- Framing (how people or objects are positioned in a shot).
- The camera's capacity to move.

### Activity 1: Getting started.

Go to this website and read the article. Watch the inserted videos and look closely at the still shots.

<https://collegefilmandmediastudies.com/cinematography/>

In your Film Notebook, construct a section for Cinematography and make notes for each of the sections on the website.

Extension: search the internet or capture screen grabs from a movie to create your own examples of different aspects of cinematography.

### Activity 2: Shot angles and shot types ( remember: if it's in bold, purple font, learn by heart !).

You need to open the Powerpoint presentation uploaded with this document :  
"Camera Shots and Angles".

Work through the slides. You may need to revisit it several times before the definitions stick in your mind, especially if you are new to Film Studies.

Extension: choose a short (1 -2 minutes) of a film that you've enjoyed and watch it again. Pause the film every time you see a new shot. Write a list of each shot type and angle.

Write an overview paragraph of how the camera has been used to manipulate the spectator's feelings and thoughts.

Example: The first shot in the sequence is a low angle close- up of the heroine's face as she stares fiercely down. The use of camera makes her appear powerful because.... The consequent shot is a high angle mid-shot of the villain as he cowers on the floor. This is a point of view shot as the spectator understands that this is the person that the heroine was staring at. The use of camera makes the villain appear weak and vulnerable because....

Once you feel confident with this skill area, go on to Introduction to Cinematography Part Two.