

# How to Effectively Communicate to a Camera

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## General tips for “performing” in a video recording:

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- In the Directing class, I teach students how to work with actors, and get the best performances from them.
- And what I tell my students to tell their actors, is that the secret for acting in films, is knowing how to react effectively... and you can only react effectively if you're listening.
- So the most important skill for an actor to have is... the ability to listen, really listen to what the other character or characters are saying, and then react naturally. That will help them give a much better performance.
- But that doesn't help you.
- Because it's just you and the camera. There's no one to listen to... and react. So scratch that.

## Helpful hints:

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- Don't rush it. Take your time. Don't be afraid of pauses. How long is a pause? That depends. Long enough for what you said to have time to sink in. So if you say something that's really important... pause. Wait until the concept has sunk in. Then go on.
- Relax. The more nervous or uneasy you feel, the more uneasy your audience will feel as well.
- Focus. Concentrate on making your points. Don't ramble.
- Look into the camera. Make direct eye contact with it, like you do with students. You can look away from time to time, but there needs to be a reason for it. If you're wondering, contemplating about something, then it's OK to look away. But you shouldn't break visual contact for any reason.
- In general, if you're really focused and involved in the moment, your visual focus will take care of itself.
- Don't be monotonous.

## And remember to:

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- Change the pace of your lecture.
- The length of your sentences.
- The inflection.

- The volume.
- ... As you do in live lectures.
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Good luck!!!