

So what is a package?

- A package is a prepared news story that is edited beforehand
 - A package has video and sound based around interviews
 - A package does not involve the anchor reading anything for the story... another reporter's voice will tell the story
 - The reporter will be on camera in a package for a 10 second stand up
- For examples, look at www.stn49.com on the news page and see students' past work
- A good package means good sound bytes from your interviews... so make sure you push your interviewee to give you good, concise SOTS
- So for your package you'll need to film:
 - Interviews (at least 3 or 4, but the more the better!)
 - Broll (video that will go over your reporter voice overs, so video that pertains to the story)
 - A reporter stand up (this will take the place of one of your voice overs)
 - Reporter is in a location pertinent to the story... not just a random wall
 - A short, 10-15 second tease about your package
- You'll go through and pick the SOTS that are good and that help you tell the story
- You'll write the script to your SOTS... so pick them first and then write reporter voice overs as transition and clarification between SOTS
 - **Let the SOTS tell the story, not the reporter**
 - **Shorter reporter vo's are better**

Where do I start?

- The first thing you want to do is research your topic and find people that might be able to do interviews with you
 - A good package should have at least 3 or 4 interviews from a **variety of voices**
 - Authority voices and every-day people affected
 - Always want to make sure you have at least one authority voice in your package
- Easiest way to start out is to email potential interviewees
 - It sounds silly, but **always make sure you state that it is an ON-CAMERA INTERVIEW...** you'd be surprised at the number of people that don't get that
- If your interview is set up, make sure you have the proper equipment
 - Contact me (lnwallen@udel.edu or 717-818-8159) to get STN equipment or go to the Media Center in the basement of the library
 - **You will need:**
 - Camera
 - Tripod
 - Microphone
 - ******DO NOT try to shoot your interview without a microphone!*****

Doing Interviews

- Prepare a list of questions ahead of time to ask
- When setting up the shot, you want it to be zoomed in so that you just see the **head and shoulders** of the person you're interviewing
 - The reporter should NOT be in the shot... you'll be standing beside the camera so that the interviewee is **looking at the reporter, not the camera**
 - Frame them so they're on one side and angled in towards the reporter
 - Switch it up between your interviews... if one person was on the right side of the frame, then put your next interview on the left side
- During your interview, make sure you're completely silent while the other person is talking
 - It's natural to want to add "yeah, uh huh's" etc while the other person is talking, but just nod your head to show your interest instead
- If they say something you think you'd like to use, but don't quite say it right, don't be afraid to rephrase the same question and ask it again until you get what you want
- Always make sure you have their name with the correct spelling and their title
- **Man on the streets** (student interviews) are pretty essential for almost every campus news story because we all want to know what other students think
 - for these you can set something up with a friend or acquaintance that is affected by the topic or that you think would be interested in the story
 - if you don't set anything up, that's ok too... just go out with your questions and camera to a popular spot in Trabant, on the green, etc and walk up to people and ask them to do interviews

Filming Broll

- Film a variety of shots, so make some close-ups of something, some wide shots, and some medium
- The best shots are shots with movement... so try to get someone walking by, someone doing something
- Film about 10 seconds for each shot
 - These shots will go over your reporter voice overs
 - You'll try to use shots that pertain to what you're talking about at that time
 - Each shot in your package should be about 5 seconds, so pick the best 5 seconds of what you shoot
- You don't need to use a microphone when you're filming broll, but make sure the camera is recording the natural sound
 - **You don't want silent broll without the background noise**
- It's always best to over-shoot with broll

Putting it all together

- watch your interviews and write down the times of each of their good SOTS (this is called logging)
- decide how your story would flow, write out a general outline of ideas

- ex) if you're doing a story covering an event, you might start out talking about the event and giving information about it, then go into what was special about it, what students thought, etc
- Write out your script
 - **Keep in mind**, Sarah, Kelsey, and I are always happy to help you put your script together, or it would even be great if you email it to us before you start editing and get our feedback
- Record your voice-overs
 - You can either do this in the sound booth at The Other Side, or it's usually just easier to go in a quiet place in your room, start recording on the camera, and talk into your microphone
 - Do each voice over a few times so you can make sure you get the best take
- Film your stand up
 - Wearing something that looks professional or business casual is best
 - Read over what you're going to say a few times before you try recording
 - **MAKE SURE YOU USE A MICROPHONE**
 - Try to smile, look happy, put some emotion into it
 - Filming stand ups is hard to do, so don't get discouraged... just keep yourself calm and keep doing takes until you think you have it right
 - In the end, make sure you end up with two good takes in case something goes wrong with one of them
- The Mac computers at The Other Side have two editing programs on them—Avid and Final Cut
 - Set up a time with: myself, Kelsey, Sarah, Ben, Mike and have one of us show you how to edit for the first time
 - The computers in the basement of the library also have those programs if you'd prefer to edit there
 - If you have another editing program on your computer or are familiar with another editing program, that's fine
 - But keep in mind that if you'd like to work in a news room someday, you'll need to learn how to use Avid and Final Cut
 - Export your finished package and tease onto a dvd or a flash drive and get them to Mike

COURTESY OF LYNDSEY WALLEN