A2 Media Video Pre-Production Checklist

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| **Checklist** | **Check as either √ or x** | **Notes** |
| You need at least 3 characters | **√ or x** | Working with people will challenge. So choose wisely!  Choose people you know – your friends and family  Try to get some difference in your characters (young /old ~ male / female) |
| You need at least 3 locations  *Remember that your choice of locations do not necessarily need to have your characters in it at this stage (or even at all) – the theme is ISOLATION – so empty spaces will work wel* | **√ or x** | Choose settings that are familiar to you – your house, your garden, your local community  Try to get some difference in your settings (ie indoor / outdoor) |
| **Make sure all of your decisions are realistic and achievable** | **√ or x** |  |
| Have you looked at what is front of you? | **√ or x** |  |
| * Make sure you take all of your photos as landscape photos (ie the shape of TV and Film) NOT portrait – which is the shape of a phone | **√ or x** |  |
| Make sure you have a range of shot sizes: | | |
| Think really (I mean really, really) **big, long shots** – this is known as an establishing shot – it’s really important to have these to give a sense of location. It will also help you to cut from one sequence to another | **√ or x** |  |
| Think really (I mean really, really, really) **close up** – so not just the close up of faces, but the detail of a face – an eye, a mouth, hair, an ear, a leg, a foot, a hand, a finger, a finger nail – so really, really close | **√ or x** |  |
| **DO NOT THINK MEDIUM SHOTS** – ie the safe distance, please, please, please avoid this kind of shot – it just has no drama, intensity, connection or interest. It is too easy, so don’t use them. | **√ or x** |  |
| Make sure you think of the light | **√ or x** | if it is too dark, we can’t see it. So don’t use it. But do you want to shoot into the light (= silhouette and/or shadow). Or with the light behind you. Look, think . . LIGHT |
| Make sure you have a range of angles | **√ or x** | high angle (looking down), low angle (looking up), canted angle (your camera slanted) |
| Make sure you look at what you are recording in your frame - basically look at and think about how is the shot /content framed up | | |
| so what is in the background,  try putting something in the foreground | **√ or x** |  |
| try putting the key element of the shot (eg a person or a thing) just slightly off from the centre, so that it is at the side, or slightly hidden | **√ or x** |  |
| Try using the portrait mode on your phone, or adjusting the focus on your camera so that you put the foreground / background slightly out of focus | **√ or x** |  |
| Take loads of photos – at this stage aim for about 50 + then select them down to about 20 photos that you like | **√ or x** | the more you have to choose from the better |

Remember, it isn’t *out there* or *somewhere else* . . . it really is right in front of your face.

* You have 3 different characters
* You have 3 different locations.

For those who would like a bit more guidance and input, have a look at this post: <http://mymediacreative.com/language-of-moving-image-2/>