Get great sound!

Field production tips

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- Anticipate the sounds you'll hear.
- In the field, deconstruct the sound of the scene and record the elements.
- Avoid cliches when using scene sound.
- Look for and record movement.
- **Find transitional sound** something that changes.
- Avoid music in the background at all costs.
- Always wear your headphones. Really.
- Get close, stay close.
- Patience is key!
- If you can loop ambience, it's probably boring.

- Omnidirectional mics handle wind noise and p-pops well, but need to be held close to the action.
- Shotgun mics are prone to mic-handling noise, p-pops and wind buffeting — but focus well.
- A high-pass filter can sometimes help with p-pops, wind and handling noise.
- Use wind protection or a popper stopper.
- Record 1 minute of room tone/ambi with the mic in the same position as the interview.
- Check the recording before you leave the location! Do you have what you need?



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Field Recording Checklist

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Equipment		Misc	Recording		
	Fresh batteries		List of anticipated sounds		Remove distractions! (hums, buzzes,
	Spare batteries (charged)		Phone (charged)		TV, fridge, AC, music?)
	Mic + battery		Phone charger		90 seconds interview ambience
	Mic cable		Phone battery pack (charged)		(same level and position)
	Wind protection		Press pass		Transition into scene
	Pistol grip		Business cards		Scene element 1
	Headphones + adapter		Pen/pencil		Scene element 2
	Recorder		Notepad		Scene element 3
	Backup recorder		Rain gear/hat/gloves		Transition out of scene
	Formatted memory card + spare		Sunscreen		"Wide shot" perspective ambience
	(both formatted on recorder)		Snack		Closer perspective ambience
	Mic clamp		\$ for parking + transportation		
	Ground lift				
	Line to mic pad				

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Ground lift Line to mic pad

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