# Green Screen Tips

Considering what to wear for your upcoming green screen shoot is very important. There are a few clothing items and styling choices that do not work well with virtual background replacement, because when someone stands or sits in front of our green screen, we "magically" take out all of the green from the image and replace it with something else. The reason the screen is green is simply because it’s not a color found in the pigment of our skin. As a result, when we remove this color, we will always be left with a clear image of the person in the shot. If you do wear anything green, part of you will become invisible, which isn’t a good look!

*Below, you’ll find a handy list of things we strongly advise you to avoid when preparing for your green screen shoot.*

## Tip 1

Green! We’ve already covered this, but you’d be surprised how many people come to our studio wearing this forbidden color. It’s best to avoid all shades of green, be it bright, olive, moss, khaki, or even an outfit that has accents of green. Bottom line—never, ever wear green on a green screen shoot, unless you want parts of you to “disappear!”

## Tip 2

Frizzy hair. If you have frizzy or unruly hair of any degree, then you might look like you have green highlights when the background is virtually replaced, because the green from the screen struggles to get through the fine gaps between your hair strands. Unfortunately, the "magic button" can’t simply take away all of this green and we end up losing some of your hair when we try to take it out! Whether you have hair with “a mind of its own” or not, if you are able to style your hair close to your head (tied up without any "air gaps" or loose curls) that would be best.

## Tip 3

Wearing clothing made of patterned fabric is a no-no. Checked, tartan, fine pinstripes, and all other fancy patterns do not work particularly well because the pattern can flicker on some cameras, which becomes very distracting.

## Tip 4

Try to avoid wearing eyeglasses. If you wear glasses and have contact lenses, we advise you to wear the latter. Our studio lights can sometimes reflect on the lenses of your glasses, and as a result, your eyes may be hidden behind a bright flare of light. However, if you wear glasses and don’t have contact lenses, don’t worry, we can find ways to work around this.

## Tip 5

Microphone placement. We may position a microphone either above your head or clip a microphone to your clothing. To plan for the potential of having a mic clipped to your clothing, there are some important things to consider when planning your outfit. For example, if you wear a dress, t-shirt, or top that does not button, we will have no place to secure the microphone.

We usually clip it on a tie, between the buttons on a dress shirt, or on the lapel of a jacket. If you must wear a dress or a t-shirt it isn't a "deal-breaker;" we will simply run the mic from behind you and over your shoulder to attach it to your collar, but that look isn't as appealing. Please note that we may ask you to run the mic and cable underneath a layer of your clothes to hide as much of the microphone as possible, so you may want to also consider wearing an undershirt.

## Tip 6

Makeup. For any video recording, makeup will enhance the way you look. Without it, the camera can make you look paler than you do with the naked eye. It doesn't have to be a lot of makeup, but something to add a little color will go a long way. Again, if you forget, it isn't the end of the world, but you will look more realistic on screen if you remember.

## Tip 7

Bright lights. Be prepared for very bright lights that will be pointed toward your face during the recording. If our studio lights begin to bother you, feel free to ask for a break to rest your eyes, as the lights can make them water or feel uncomfortable over an extended period of time.

## Tip 8

Silver and gold jewelry. Some jewelry can be worn, but the lighting in our studio tends to reflect off silver and gold jewelry, which can be quite distracting for the viewer. Necklaces must be worn with caution, as they may knock against the microphone, causing intermittent clicks during your talk. Wrist jewelry while seated at a green table should not be worn as the green surface of the table reflects on the jewelry, making the jewelry look green to the camera, and as I've mentioned, green isn't a good color for a green screen shoot.

## Tip 9

Smile. Turn that frown upside down! Nothing looks better on camera than a smile.

## Tip 10

Teleprompter. If your shoot requires you to read from a teleprompter, please practice beforehand. The goal is to sound as natural as possible and not as if you are reading. Practice helps alleviate the task of concentrating on the text and allows you to focus more on delivery, resulting in smoother and more confident-sounding audio.

As always, if you’re unsure or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact   
David Evans at **david.evans@wmich.edu**. We know it can be daunting when using a video studio, especially for the first time, and we want to make your production a great one!