# Teleprompter Tips

Here are a few suggestions we encourage you to consider when preparing for your upcoming teleprompter video shoot. If you forget to remember our guidelines, don’t worry, but following these tips will help you come across better for your recording.

## Tip 1

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 2

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 3

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 4

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 5

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 6

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.

## Tip 7

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

## Tip 8

Teleprompter. When preparing to use 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 reading from a teleprompter on camera can be daunting, especially for the first time, and we want to make your production a great one!