

Smartphone Video Webinar

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Using your smartphone to record video and audio will open up new opportunities for you to reach your audience with powerful messages. We'll explore your phone's camera app, composition, lighting, audio, and how to record interviews and b-roll.

Goals for this training session



What's in your hand?
(purse, pocket, etc.)



The LORD answered Moses,
"What's that in your hand?"

Exodus 4:2

The modern smartphone has more computing power than NASA had when it put a man on the moon!

**I used to think my phone had a camera. Now I realize
that my camera can also makes calls!**



9:58 🔇 📶 🔋 75%

← ⋮

Blackmagic Camera

Blackmagic Design Inc.

Uninstall

Open

What's new

Last updated Oct 15, 2025

→

Blackmagic Camera for Android 3.1

* Support for aspect ratio selection and open gate on co...

* Support for function buttons to select audio sources, f...

✓ Phone • 4.6 ★

Chromebook

Tablet • 3.5 ★

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About this app

→

Get high end digital film camera controls and image processing on your phone.

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Quick Tips

Your story has only **3 SECONDS** to grab the viewer's attention!

5 STORY-TELLING TIPS



GET THE FACTS

Cover the 5W's of Journalism: **Who? What? When? Where? Why?**



STRONG IMAGES

The first image must grab attention.



SIMPLE WORDS

Everyday language, short words, active verbs.



USE EMOTION

Is your story happy, sad? Does it have conflict?



BE BRIEF, CONCISE

For news **1:30 to 3:30 minutes**. For social media a max of **2 minutes**.



Go to www.GNA.news

- For more Smartphone Journalism tips
- To qualify as a GNA Smartphone Correspondent

Quick Tips

PRE-PRODUCTION



STORY CONCEPT



A CLEAN LENS

(use microfiber cloth if needed)



BATTERY CHARGED

(& extra battery)



SUFFICIENT MEMORY

PRODUCTION



1 ACTIVATE AIRPLANE MODE



2 HOLD IT HORIZONTAL (16:9)



3 STRONG LIGHT BEHIND YOU



4 AUDIO: USE A MICROPHONE OR COME CLOSE



5 STABILIZE THE PHONE

(brace or use tripod & resist pans & zooms)



6 FRAME THE SHOT (rule of thirds)



7 AE/AF LOCK TAP & HOLD TO SET

(Renew for each shot)

(START RECORDING)



8 MINIMUM 10 SECONDS/SHOT



9 ZOOM WITH YOUR FEET

(don't use digital zoom)



10 WMD--WIDE, MEDIUM, DETAIL
—three shots to cover the scene

YouTube [tutorial](#)

Pre-production

Pre-production

- Research—what is the story and its elements?
- Shot list—what video is needed to tell the story?
- Location—where will you shoot the story? Sound? Light? Permission?
- Planning the Interview—who should you include?
- Equipment, assistants, etc.

Production

Shooting the interview

- Name, spelling, title, consent
- Open-ended questions
- Ask them to describe how they felt/feel
(VO narration conveys facts, soundbites convey emotion)
- Last question: What else?

Stabilization









Framing & Composition

Shots



- WS - MS - CU - XCU, or WMDs (Wide, Medium, Detailed shots)
- Focal length: use the standard lens, **zoom with your feet**
- Angle: Low v High, interviews shot at eye-level, near on-axis
- B-roll: visuals that support the A-roll
- Shoot in **SEQUENCES!**

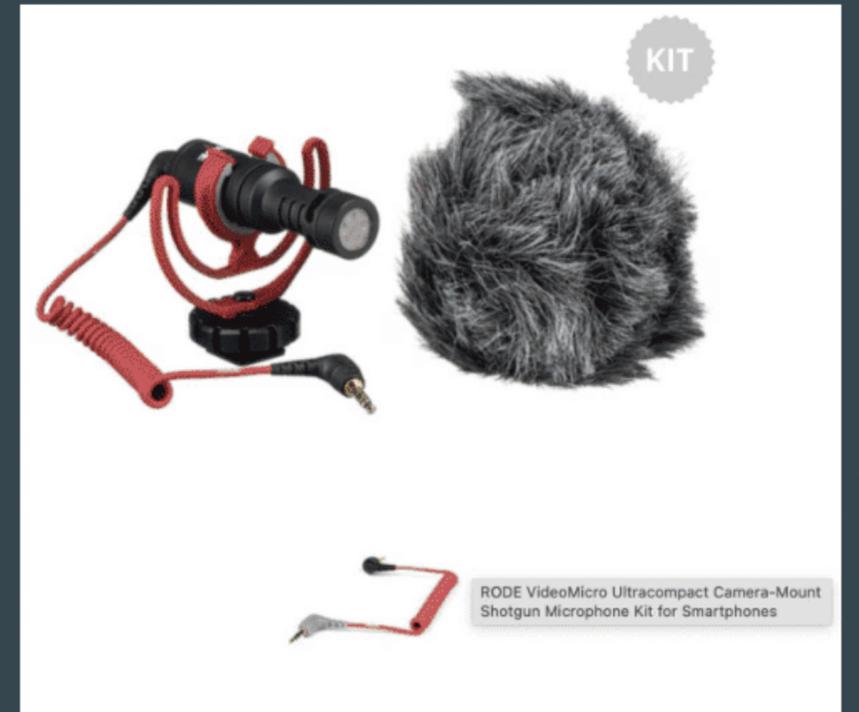
Audio



BOYA

Microphones

- Lapel or lavalier microphone
- Small shotgun microphone
- Adaptors to attach to phone
- Wind muff
- Headphones or high-quality earbuds
- Wireless microphones



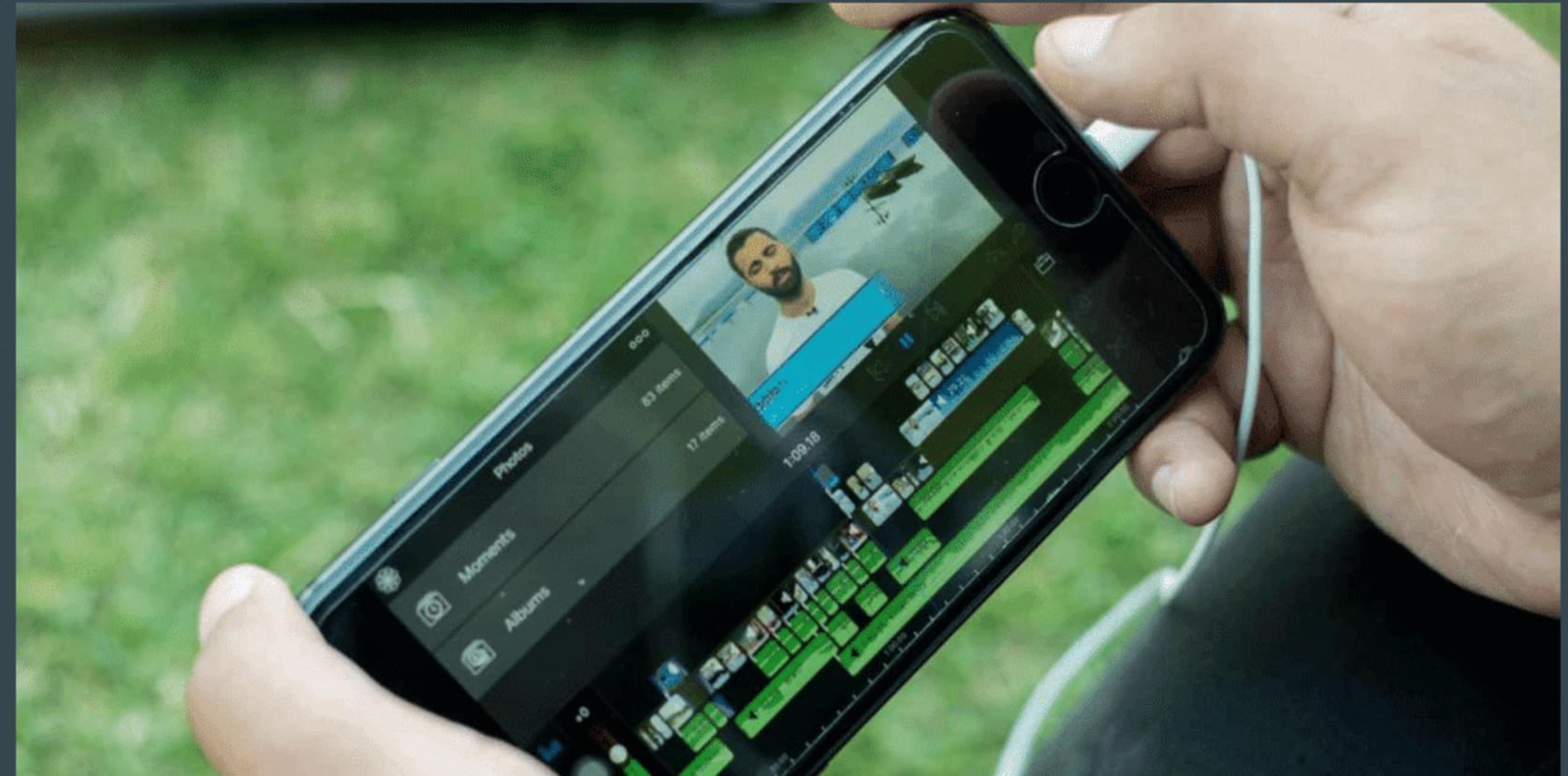
Recording VO narration

1. Write for the ear, not the eye!
2. Rehearse out-loud, and listen for problem words/phrases
3. Find a quiet place to record: a closet, small room with soft surfaces, even inside a car parked in a quiet area.
4. Use the best mic that you have, and record into your phone or computer.
5. Record your VO and repeat until you have a “take” that you like.
If it’s an upbeat story, smile while you speak.
6. Edit to remove or insert silence to adjust timing, add post-processing as needed

Post-production

Smartphone Editing Apps

- [VN Video Editor](#)
- LumaFusion
- CapCut
- Filmora
- KineMaster



Setting the format or aspect ratio

- Original
- TikTok
- IG
- **YouTube, aka 16:9, horizontal**
- ...other formats

Aspect ratios

21:9

Ultra-widescreen films used to create a 360-degree effect use the 21:9 aspect ratio.

16:9

For online videos, modern TVs, and movie theaters.

4:3

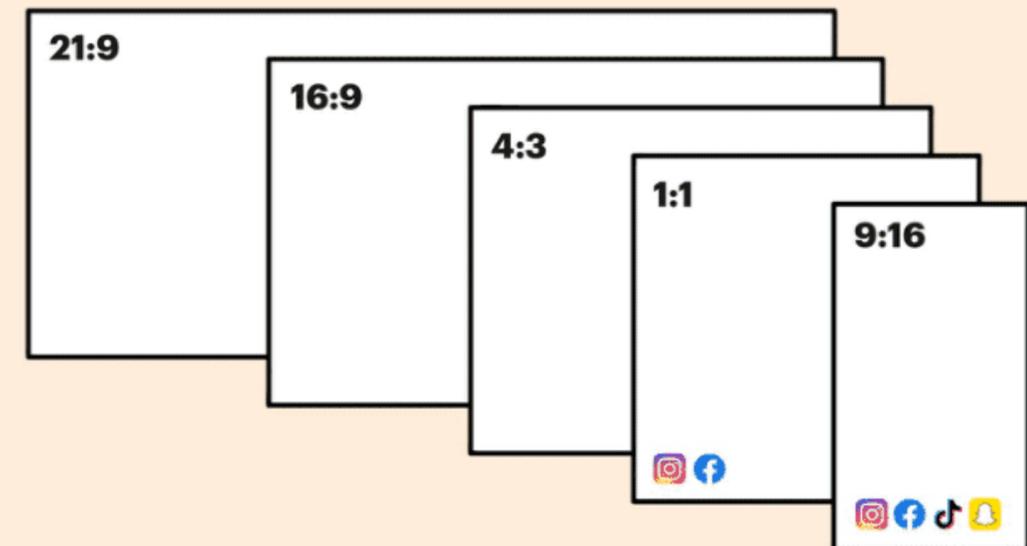
For film and was supported on box TVs and computer monitors until HD came along.

1:1

For social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

9:16

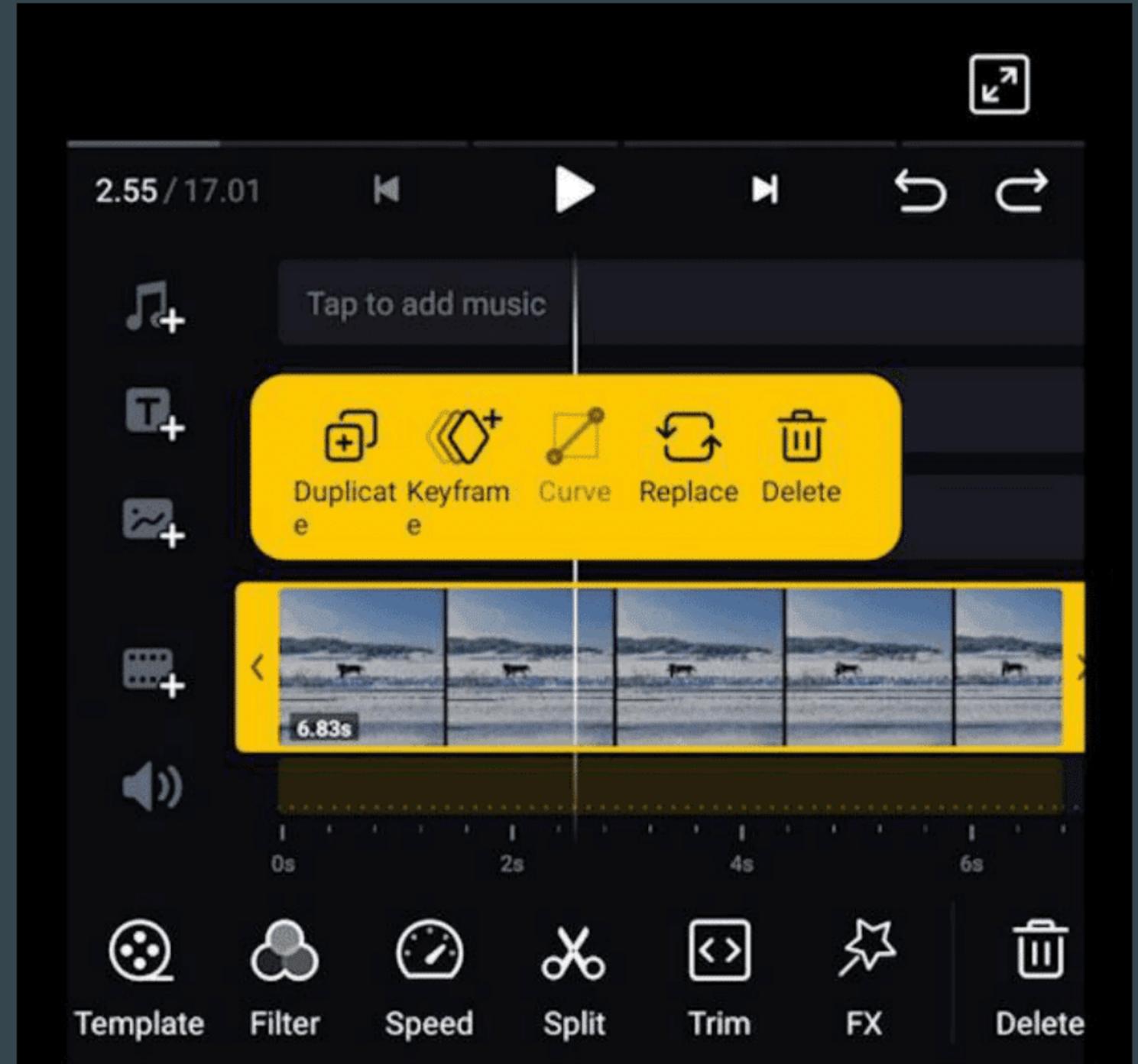
This aspect ratio became popular when you could start shooting video with a smartphone.



Tracks

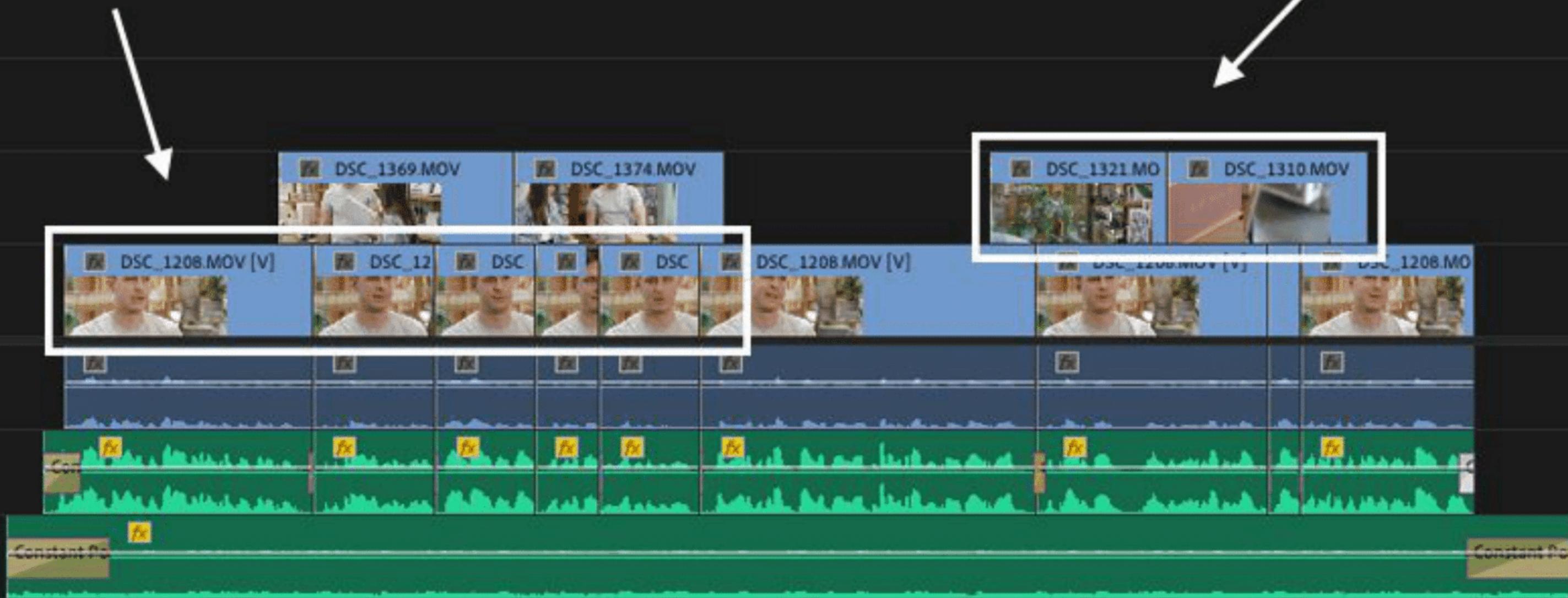
- Main video
 - Below that is audio from main video
- B-roll or Overlays
- Titles
- Music & SFX

Zoom to expand/contract the timeline



A-roll

B-roll



AI Tools for Content Creation

- [Descript](#)
- [Elevenlabs.io](#)
- [InVideo](#)
- [CapCut](#)
- [Veo](#)
- [Sora](#)





Fresh stories of God at work

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📅 January 8, 2026 📁 Featured, United States

Rebuilding a Family's Home After Hurricane Helene

Before Hurricane Helene, Bob and Edwina Tatum were enjoying a quiet, comfortable retirement, but after...

A Non-Profit News Service reporting on the Church in action.



How does Global News Alliance work?

Thank You!

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