

## **PHVX12A - Headshot Portrait Tips**

### **1. Framing - How is headshot subject framed?**

- Should be relatively tight on the head
- Can be vertical or horizontal frame
- Can come in very close or include head, shoulders, part of torso
- Background should be clean. No distractions. Environment is not important

### **2. Shooting Angles - Where to position the camera and subject?**

- Try to create some interesting angles
- Shoot from above or below
- Generally shoot from a little distance and use telephoto to flatten facial features
- Create angles by posing subject at different angles, putting hips and shoulders at angles

### **3. Lighting - What kind of lighting is best for headshots?**

- Avoid harsh lighting and deep shadows for most portraits or headshots
- Look for diffused lighting
  - Skylight but not direct sunlight
  - Window light
  - Diffuser or soft box on studio lights
- Watch out for color temperature of light
  - Avoid greenish florescent light in portraits
  - Compensate for blue of sky light in shady areas
  - Look for warmer light tones on skin
- Try to create volume on face with light and shadow

### **4. Posing Subject - What kinds of poses work best for headshot portraits?**

- Avoid straight on mugshot style headshot. Too dull.
- Angle hips and shoulders to one side or another
- Lean body forward, straight up and back
- Turn head to left, center and right
- Angle chin up, level and down
- Tilt head left, straight up and right
- Try many combinations of these posing variables to get effective results

### **5. Expression - How can I get the best expressions for headshots?**

- Establish rapport and agreement on purpose of shoot with subject
- Try to elicit a variety of expressions
- Focus on the eyes - direct the subject's gaze to camera, down, up, etc.