

# Camera operator

## Description:

The camera operator is the person that operates a film or video camera to record a film or television programme. A camera operator working on a film may also be known as a videographer, depending on the context and technology involved.

The camera operator is responsible for using a camera to film a production and maintaining the composition of a given scene or shot. When shooting a fiction film, a camera operator will work closely with the director, director of photography, actors and crew to make technical and creative decisions about the making of the film. In documentary filmmaking the camera operator might be asked to film unfolding, unscripted events.

## Personal testimony:

The main issue with copyright infringement is that it affects ‘the little man’. Most people think that when they use, upload, buy or even watch unauthorised footage, the only people they’re affecting are the big corporations and film distribution companies. In fact, they couldn’t be more wrong. It’s usually the smaller companies and individuals in the industry who are affected, as they’re unable to police how their footage is used. A big corporation has the resource to target people pirating material but it’s certainly not something I can afford to do. Instead, I give people unlimited access to use the footage they pay for – it won’t necessarily make me the most money but it does mean that they pay a fair price for fair usage.

Mark Bloomfield, Camera Operator

## Industry facts

Camera operators need to be able choreograph and frame shots, as well as having a knowledge of and ability to select the right photographic lenses for any particular shot. They also need understand and be able to use other technical equipment to portray dramatic scenes.

The camera operator needs to communicate clearly and concisely on film sets because pressures on time and budget mean that the film crew can't waste any time. Copyright infringement stops talented camera operators and many of the other 150,000 people who work in the film and TV industries, from being paid fairly for their work.

# Questions

- Think about the different genres of films that you have watched. How might a camera operator's job differ from one genre to another?
- How do you think camera operators are affected by copyright infringement?

## So why is copyright important?

- Celebrities aren't the only people involved in creating the movies. Stunt people, costume designers and others depend on royalties and repeat fee payments.

## Notes

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