

# 10 TIPS FOR FILMING OWS PROTESTS, ARRESTS & POLICE CONDUCT

*Remember: You have the legal right to film police in New York!*

## 1. PREPARE >

Know your equipment. Turn off features to maximize battery life (e.g. wifi search on phones). Have charged and extra batteries, use empty memory cards and bring back-ups. Use a camera strap. Where possible, turn on correct date, time and location features. Write the National Lawyers Guild's # on your forearm and save it: **212.679.6018**. If arrests occur, call in with location, time and name of anyone arrested.

## 2. PLAN YOUR SHOTS >

Know the people, places, and events you want to record beforehand. Film so those who aren't there will understand the full story of what happened. Hold your shot steady (minimum 10 seconds), **pan VERY slowly**, avoid jerky movements and zooming. When safe, be agile to **get multiple angles** - move closer, film from above, and get wide, medium, and close-up shots. If violence or abuse occurs - **KEEP RECORDING** (as long as it's safe.)

## 3. ALWAYS RECORD >

Date, time (film a watch or newspaper) and location (intersections, street signs, landmarks.) Get various angles when documenting the size and behavior of the crowd, number and formation of police, and any weapons they are holding or using. **Record any police orders or permissions given** and the time and officer's name and badge number. Record when police are creating or moving barricades or orange nets. Record any police filming protests or protesters.

## 4. GET DETAILS >

If there is an arrest or violence, attempt to capture the entire incident, including: time, location, number and identities of involved individuals, and broader crowd or police presence/behavior. **Film or say names of officers, badge numbers or helmet numbers into the camera.** Work to get faces of those affected on film. Film from above if possible. If needed, verbally add details to give facts of what happened.

## 5. WORK AS A TEAM >

Ideally, film as a team and coordinate with designated roles and responsibilities to ensure you record the same incident from different angles and viewpoints. Try to keep each other in view/frame. Have a partner to watch your back, help keep you safe and alert you of other potential shots you should capture. If you are at risk of arrest and want to keep filming, consider giving a memory card to a friend for safe keeping; replace with empty card and **KEEP RECORDING**. If an incident occurs, get the name and contact info of others who were filming/photographing.

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# SHARING AND UPLOADING YOUR FOOTAGE FOR IMPACT

Regardless if you are uploading unedited or edited footage, you should provide the following information so it can be found and be put to best use. There are hundreds of videos on OWS, but some lack this essential, useful information. Select a Creative Commons license when uploading so others can remix your video for advocacy purposes, and so it can be collected and archived by others.

**1. TITLE WITH PURPOSE >** Keep titles brief and descriptive. Add date, location and time of incident; e.g. November 15 - 2:25 am - Occupy NYC - Police Raid.

**2. DESCRIBE YOUR VIDEO >** Always include date of incident, location and details of what happened BEFORE, DURING and AFTER recording. Consider starting with a link to find more info, e.g. <http://www.occupywallst.org> - November 2, 2011 | Brooklyn, NY | [Insert detailed video description here].

**3. TAG YOUR VIDEO >** Before uploading, do a search for related videos and news to help select a useful title and tags. Always add date of incident, time, city, specific location, occupy wall street, occupy, ows. Use common tags found in your search: 'police brutality', 'arrest', 'pepper spray'.

**4. SAFETY or SECURITY CONCERNS >** If you think faces need to be blurred, or feel the video may harm someone's case or dignity, save your media and **get legal advice before uploading.**

**5. SAVE AND NAME YOUR VIDEO >** **Do not rely on YouTube** or other sites to save and preserve your footage - it may be taken down and valuable technical information can be lost in the upload. Save original footage to your computer and back up to an external hard drive. Name files and organize them so they are easy to find - add date, location and tags.



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See more filmmaking tips and guides at [WITNESS.org/training](http://WITNESS.org/training)

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