

Self-Tape Audition Tips

Using your phone

Always shoot the video HORIZONTALLY. (landscape)

Try to have the phone at eye level and on a secure surface (although a tripod is ideal)

Clean your lens.

Make sure you have enough storage space in your phone for multiple takes if necessary

Confirm that your phone (and other phones in the vicinity) is on silent

Choosing your environment

Environment should be quiet, clean and as neutral as possible.

Keep your background as clear as possible. A blank neutral colored wall is best. Remove any distracting elements or clutter. The focus should be on YOU, rather than having your décor and “stuff” pulling focus.

Make sure there are no distracting noises. (people, pets, tv, fans, ac units, outside activity etc)

For singing, make sure the music track for your song isn't so loud that it overpowers your voice. Do some test runs to adjust as necessary.

Lighting

Have your light source in front of you and not in the shot (avoid back lighting or overhead and side lighting that will cast strong shadows on your face)

Natural light from a window (in front of you) is often all you need

If natural light isn't an option, place lamps in front of you with enough distance to minimize shadows and harshness.

Do some test shots and tweak the lighting as needed before you do it for real!

(A ring light is a great investment if you'll be doing lots of self-tapes in the future 😊)

Wardrobe

Shouldn't be the same color as your background

Neutral solid colored (non black, white, neon) tops are best. Avoid patterns, logos, words, images on clothing as it will distract from you!

Clothing should be non-restrictive.

Minimize accessories and jewelry. They can make noise as well as be visually distracting.

You want the focus to be on YOU, not your clothes.

Make sure your hair is out of your face.

Filming

Frame your audition per the instructions given. (meaning, how much of your body do they need to see in the video.) Make sure you don't go out of the frame when you are performing!

A "slate" is your on-camera introduction

When slating, look directly into the camera, smile, give your name and what you will be doing

Rehearse your slate, it's part of your audition and the director's first impression. Know what you are going to say. Don't wing it. Keep it simple but show how lovely and confident you are. Ex "Hi! My name is Laura Gray and I will be singing "Some Enchanted Evening" or "Hello! I'm Laura Gray and I will be doing Hope from "Almost Maine"

While it's recommended to look into the camera for your slate, unless otherwise instructed, you shouldn't look directly into the camera during your performance. (Just like you wouldn't look right at the director in an in-person audition) Pick a focal point just to the left or right of the lens. Imagine that is the location of the person that you are singing or talking to in your song or monologue.

When you are finished with your prepared monologue or song, take a moment (a few seconds) to transition out of character and become you again. Then look into the camera, smile, and say "thank you."

If possible, edit out any excess footage at the beginning or end of your video. If not possible, know that you are "auditioning" with every moment you are seen in the video. So make sure you are always projecting a professional, confident and positive demeanor. (no matter how you may be pre-judging or post-judging your audition!)