

DSLR Focusing Activity

Try this activity with a variety of fixed and zoom lenses. Repetition is the key to building confidence and being able to quickly get the shot you want. Make sure to use a tripod with these exercises.

1. Switch the camera to video mode
2. Open the menu and set the exposure to Automatic
3. Make sure your lens is switched to Manual Focus (MF)
4. Frame your subject
5. Use the arrow buttons to move the magnifying frame over your subject
6. Push the zoom button twice to zoom into 10x
7. Manually focus
8. Push the zoom button once more to go back to your full view
9. Record a 4-5 second clip

If you are in partners, shift the camera out of focus and have the other person go through the same process. Then move to another subject that is at a different focal length and repeat the process.

Switch lenses or trade another group with a different lens so you get the opportunity to practice with a variety of lens.

When you have an extra 10 minutes left of class or you are waiting for your video editor to render a project, get your DSLR out and practice this technique. Make sure to practice at least once a week for the first 5-10 weeks, or until this become a habit.

