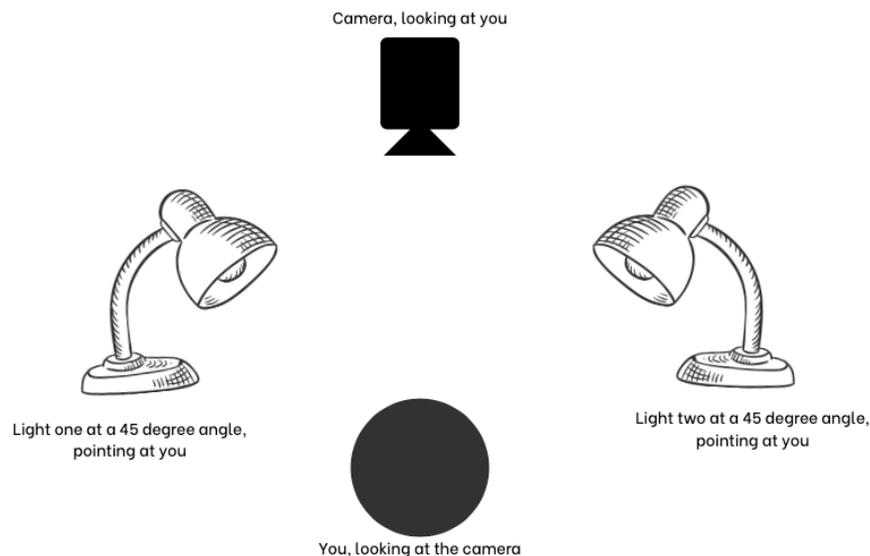


# How to Be a Great Online Storyteller

## Part Two

### How to Look Good

Proper lighting is important. It's a good idea to have at least one light source, but two are preferable. Both should be bright and facing you at about a 45-degree angle.



Make sure there isn't much backlighting; backlighting confuses the camera, and your face won't be as visible.

If you wear makeup, remember that your listeners will see you from close up so adjust your makeup accordingly. If you don't usually wear makeup, you may want to consider using some matte powder that matches your skin tone so the lights won't reflect off your skin. This can happen regardless of your complexion. However, the most important part of looking good in online storytelling is you. Relax. Smile. Enjoy yourself.

## How to Sound Good

Sounding good requires you to relax and enjoy your telling. You may want to slow your speech down just a little bit, since your listeners' speaker quality may make your voice sound muffled.

### Light and Sound Pre-Show Checks

Before your show begins, turn on your video conferencing software and look at yourself with your lights on. Make sure you are well illuminated and clear on the camera. Ask someone to watch and listen through your video conference to check volume and clarity. Adjust as needed.

You don't have to invest a lot of money or equipment in your lights and microphone. Two desk lamps with parchment paper hoods, a ring light, or inexpensive studio lights are three options (see images to the right).



Your computer microphone can be used, but consider using a set of plug-in ear buds, the kind that probably came with your mobile phone. Be sure to secure the microphone so it doesn't brush against your clothing and distort the audio.

You could invest in a USB microphone like the one in the photo to the right, but unless you're doing higher-end recordings, it isn't necessary.



### Expressive Facial and Body Language

One of the keys to great online storytelling is to use your face expressively and use gestures that get the point across but are still small enough to fit on the screen. You will discover what expressions you should use, but it might be helpful to see some storytellers who are very expressive and notice how it effects their story.

Diane Ferlatte uses her body to help tell the story and includes the audience in the process:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEoEGr955tw>

Peter Cook is a deaf storyteller. This short video shows him talking about his work. Notice how expressive his face is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0gyAL1oZBE>

Dack Vlrnig is another deaf storyteller. This video doesn't have hearing translation, but notice how you can follow the story even if you don't sign:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67KTOUuckAw>

Kevin Cordi uses more of his body for this telling. It's not in sign language. (This also is a good example of what happens when your audio isn't clear enough.):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO3i\\_3WN7tk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO3i_3WN7tk)