

Camera Framing

Camera framing refers to three key areas:

Shot Type

Camera Positioning

Camera Angle

Shot Type - types of shot refer to the positioning and distance between the camera and its subject. The main types of shot include:

Long shot

Medium shot

Medium close-up

Close-up

Shot extremes include extreme close-up and extreme long shot

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Viewing Extract



[Mortice 7](#) (01:05 to 01:10)

The film begins with a series of close-ups of bolts, locks and door bells inter-cut with the title MORTICE immediately establishing the mood of threat and menace that will grow stronger as the film progresses.

Viewing Extract



[Do Armed Robbers Have Love Affairs 6](#)

The final shot of the film is an extreme close-up of the human eye.

The Third Man: (00:12:40 to 00:15:02)

In Film Art by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson (page 219-220), the authors use a scene from The Third Man to illustrate these different shot sizes from long shot to close-up.

Camera Positioning - In addition to considering framing in terms of shot type, it is also important to consider shots in relation to their point of view and perspective within the scene. Where is the camera positioned within the scene?

Camera Angle – A final, important consideration in relation to camera framing is shot angle. Camera angle can play an important part in a film's narration strategy (providing an omniscient bird's eye view of events, for example). It can also contribute to characterisation (in increasing a sense of dominance or inferiority, for example). The two main types of angle are:

High Angle

Low Angle

Viewing Extract



[Mortice 6 \(01:05 to 01:10\)](#)

In this high angle shot from Mortice the positioning of the camera makes the characters seem smaller and more vulnerable.

Viewing Extract



[Mortice 2](#) (02:53 to 03:20)

Low Angles in this clip from the same film the positioning of the camera creates a sense of unease and suggests that all is not well.

Viewing Extract



[Mortice 3](#)

An unconventional low angle camera perspective from inside the toilet sets up a moment of grotesque humour.