

# Lighting planning template

Use this free lighting planning template to communicate the intended look before a shoot. Sketch the camera, subject and light positions, record each fixture and modifier, then update the plan after a camera test.

## Project and shot

Scene or shot, version, date, cinematographer or photographer and lighting contact.

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## Creative intention

Describe direction, softness, contrast and background treatment. Add cleared visual references.

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## Camera and subject

Mark subject positions, camera direction, movement and frame boundaries. State whether the sketch is to scale.

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## Setup sketch

Draw the room and label fixtures, flags, bounce surfaces and routes. Show clear access and emergency exits.

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# Fixture log and camera test

Complete these sections with your team. Replace the response space with text, a sketch or your own cleared images.

## Fixture record

For each light: ID, fixture, modifier, position, height, colour or gel and tested setting. Record power requirements separately.

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## Camera test

Record lens, exposure, white balance and video frame rate where relevant. Check skin tones, reflections, spill and flicker.

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## Changes and continuity

Record approved positions and settings, take a permitted reference photograph and note what changes for the next shot.

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## Crew and safety review

Assign setup responsibilities. Agree equipment support, cable routes, electrical distribution and any rigging with competent crew and the studio.

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# Worked planning example

An original fictional Cineview teaching example. It does not describe a commissioned or completed client production.

**Key** Place a soft key to one side of the camera to shape the subject. Adjust its position and level after a camera test.

**Fill** Use a controlled bounce or another source to manage the shadow side. Choose contrast for the brief rather than a fixed dimmer percentage.

**Separation** If useful, place a controlled source behind the subject for an edge. Check for flare and spill into the lens.

**Continuity** Record final positions, modifiers and camera settings. The illustration is a teaching sketch, not a rigging or electrical specification.

## How to use the template

**Start with the frame** Choose the camera and subject positions before placing lights. Show movement and the area seen by the lens.

**Give fixtures clear IDs** Use the same IDs in the sketch and equipment notes. Record modifiers and colour settings, not just the fixture name.

**Test and revise** Approve the look in camera, then save the final plan. Ask competent crew to check the practical setup and power needs.

### References and use

StudioBinder three-point lighting guide

<https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/three-point-lighting-setup/>

Reference video: StudioBinder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1EKLvdUSac>

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