Canon XA11 / XA15

Same job on both bodies: news, announcements, campus stories. Read the body label so you return the one you took.

Before you roll

1. Power: full battery on the camera. Spare in the bag. Lens cap off.

2. Media: formatted SD card in the slot. Check remaining minutes.

3. White balance: set it for this room, not yesterday's.

4. Focus: auto until the face is sharp, then manual. Don't hunt mid-line.

5. Audio: lav or shotgun into the mic input. Headphones on. Watch the meters.

6. Record: slate, then five seconds before the action and five after.

Tricks

- If the picture looks orange or blue, white balance again.
- If you can't hear it in the headphones, it is not recorded.
- XA11 and XA15 follow the same checklist. Don't mix the kits.