

435 SIMPLE YOUTUBE VIDEO IDEAS

by Richard N. Stephenson

NEW MOVIE
MAKING TIPS



Welcome!

Are you ready to make some videos? Time to dust off that old YouTube channel of yours, fire up your camera, and start shooting everything that moves. The internet is waiting for some new talent!

This book contains a lot of what you'll need to have ideas for years to come. There are also tips for making your YouTube journey more successful. I've been through some headaches and am trying to save you the trouble. Though I admit the learning process has been fun.

The first part of the book is a brief run-down of how to work on your videos and what to do if you don't have a video camera. I recommend a few free software tools to get you started, too.

The next section has the 435 ideas I know you want to get into. That's great! They're ready to rock and roll. I've divided them up into categories and put a short description under each one to help you get a feel for them.

The last sections of the book have some detailed video production tips, other valuable resources, and my contact information. And maybe a surprise. Only one way to find out.

Are you ready?!



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The Beginning of a Beautiful Thing

Let's face it. You started out making some fun YouTube videos on your channel. Ideas just kept flowing in left and right and making good, funny, entertaining, and shareable movies wasn't that tough. You were propelled by passion and enthusiasm.

Until, BAAM!

The video producer's block. Then you ask, "what do I do now? I need some good video ideas for my next YouTube movie." Oh and it's such a horrible feeling. All of that pent up energy ready to be turned into the next creative piece for your channel. Your subscribers are waiting for you to give them more. What to do, what to do?

Use These YouTube Video Ideas to Help

I've had more than one evening like that. Just sitting around, twiddling my thumbs, wondering what the heck I'm going to do next. I would try to copy some of the more famous YouTubers, try to emulate some latest viral video, or try to just blab into the camera and hope post-production work made it into a shining gem. No such luck.

One day I just said, "you know what, self?"

"No, what, self?"

"I can come up with some ideas of my own!"

"By George... you sure can!"

And can you guess what I did next? You got it. I started creating a list of "Simple YouTube Video Ideas." I really do hope this information will get you up and inspired to make some movies.

What if I Don't Have a Video Camera?

A few people have brought up this point and dog gone-it I should address it. It really boils down to roughly two main options:

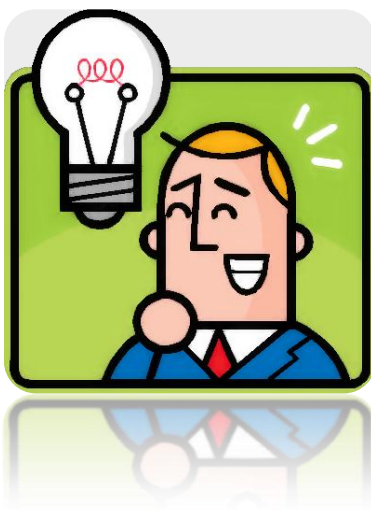
1. Take a bunch of still photos and put them together
2. Record your computer screen while you do stuff

You can do #1 with Windows Movie Maker, which is installed on just about all Windows PC's and laptops. If you have a Mac, it should have iMovie installed, which will help you accomplish the same thing.

As far as #2, put all of what you're planning on doing in something like a PowerPoint presentation (or heck, just Microsoft Word, the free [OpenOffice Writer](#), or the free [Paint.Net](#) photo editor), and then use [CamStudio](#) (which is a free screen capturing program) to record the stuff happening on the screen. You can then either just upload it as is or bring it into Windows Movie Maker and do some fancy stuff to it.

I'm sure you'll come up with some even fancier ways to make movies if you're still working on getting a video camera.

Now let's give you some good, simple, YouTube video ideas to impress the world!



435 Simple Video Ideas

Here's the meat and potatoes of the book. These ideas are meant to inspire and get your creative juices flowing. Some ideas might not make sense unless you change up a few things. Whatever makes it work best for you is the best idea. These are seeds.

Once you get your creativity sparked and ready to flow, you're good to go. Check these ideas out and keep an open mind while going through them. Consider thinking, "how can I do this video to make an impact on my audience?" With the right frame of mind, you'll have a video going in no time.

Also, please do not distribute this book to anyone else. This is your personal copy and I worked pretty dog-gone-tootin' hard to put it together. If anyone wants to borrow it, direct them over to [the post I did on my blog](#). It'll be pretty useful by itself. Thank you for understanding and respecting each other. You rock!

Audio Angle

Take a tack at making videos focusing only on the audio. Sure, you'll have some video to go with it, but it doesn't have to be you! This can be a very good place to start for the extra shy folks out there.

1. Create a slideshow and narrate your experiences
2. Do a screen-capture commentary review for some new toy, electronic goody, food dish, game, or piece of software
3. Narrate your journey through the park, a store, a vacation, anywhere - put your own personal spin on it
4. Narrate another YouTuber's video in 'heckler / commenter' style
5. Narrate another YouTuber's video to explain the details they left out
6. Show a bunch of pictures and narrate your reaction to each one

Body Barriers

What could you do if your body could do anything? No more limits with this group of ideas. Everything you've been used to about your body it thrown out the window.

1. Get on your knees, put shoes under them, and do a skit as a little person (re: "[Dorf on Golf](#)")
2. Don't eat for a day or two and then go grocery shopping.

3. Live a day pretending you no longer have bones.
4. Pretend it is hot outside, when it's really cold (or vice versa).
5. Pretend to be and experience life as a different race or even just a different color (red, blue, purple, green, plaid)
6. Pretend to have no teeth and interact with others (put your lips over your teeth)
7. Pretend to not be able to breathe around other people
8. Pretend to not be able to feel pain and bump into stuff in the mall
9. Pretend to not be able to have emotions and have a friend make fun of you around other people
10. Pretend to not be able to hear when people ask you questions
11. Pretend to not be able to laugh or laugh in a really weird way (add some snorts)
12. Pretend to not be able to see and take a walk in a crowded park
13. Pretend to suddenly forget where you're at after you sneeze.
14. Pretend you have some very obvious super-hero abilities the next time you're at Wal-Mart or Target
15. Pretend you have x-ray vision, don't tell people, just let them see by your reaction
16. Your arms don't work – live a day like this.
17. Your feet don't work – live a day like this.

Celebrate Life

Here you'll focus on making other people's lives just a bit better. It'll be fun and who knows, you might just up and make someone's day. How about that?

1. Bring snacks with you to long waiting lines and waiting rooms and pass them out
2. Dance around crazy with your friends, preferably in public
3. Go to a store and randomly compliment people
4. Leave a nice letter on someone's doorstep, knock-and-run, then film their reaction from afar
5. Leave nice notes in a book or magazine at a bookstore
6. Leave nice notes in a book or magazine at the library
7. Playfully enjoy a park, nature in general, or a playground
8. Put a nice note under someone's windshield wiper
9. Run around telling everyone how awesome they are
10. Skip around humming or singing in a store
11. Wear clothes that look super happy or have a nice message in a store and just smile whenever anyone looks your way

Destroy Stuff

Ahh, most kids do this kind of stuff anyway so this isn't much of an idea stretch. But you're older and more responsible now. Surely you can handle some safe destruction now that you're a responsible older kid, right?

1. Burn your old action figures or toys, make it a war scene
2. Burn food to a nice crispy texture and then eat it
3. Destroy those super-popular toys or stuffed animals everyone loves so much
4. Put soda cans in the freezer and film the end results along with people's reactions
5. Leave a half-full gallon of milk outside and do a time-lapse recording of how it grows. It might explode, too, so prepare accordingly
6. Look around your house or a friend's house for demo projects and get it on film
7. Cut small slits in just the skin of some grapes and then microwave them
8. Microwave peeps or marshmallows and watch them transform
9. Smash vegetables or fruit in your driveway
10. Use a magnifying glass to focus sunlight to burn or destroy things

Hints & Tips

Let people in on your secret knowledge about life. Whether it's a small tip on how to play a game better or how to make a mean cupcake, someone will want to watch it.

1. Do a time-lapse film of yourself putting a puzzle together
2. Do a how to solve a Rubik Cube - be just a little bit creative here
3. Show a new or creative way to do a common chore
4. Show how a magic trick works
5. Show how to do special tricks or secrets in a video game
6. Show how to make a special dessert
7. Show how to make a special dish
8. Show how to make a special drink
9. Show how to make a special snack
10. Show how to solve brain-teaser puzzles
11. Show how to use a special tool or complex piece of equipment
12. Show quick solutions to common household issues
13. Show quick solutions to common vehicle issues
14. Talk about advice or hints for a particular hobby
15. Talk about advice or hints for a particular sport

16. Talk about advice or hints for a particular video game

Life Windows

Look into the true being of others, or just look at the world from a new angle. Really start to notice the details in the world around you and capture your reactions in the process.

1. Constructively respond to something another YouTuber is teaching
2. Create artwork using non-traditional tools, like carrots instead of markers
3. Create artwork using traditional tools for a style that doesn't usually use those tools; like using a paintbrush and paints to write a poem.
4. Describe a place or event through someone else's perspective
5. Describe and show how you go through the creative process for writing, drawing, thinking, brainstorming, day-dreaming, or whatever else floats your boat.
6. Describe how nerdy you are and be sure to use examples
7. Describe why you are good at something remember to use good examples
8. Do a video thank you for someone who deserves it, like your parents
9. Go through and explain an old box of cards, letters, or yearbooks
10. Go through and explain an old box of pictures or an old photo album
11. Mix different food items together and review the end result
12. Passionately describe a place you've been and enjoyed
13. Pick a random topic, learn about it, and teach about it
14. Pick a random word and write a story about it
15. Bring boring old art to life in a new way
16. Read a news article and add your opinion or reaction
17. Read a blog post and add your opinion or reaction
18. Re-create a piece of artwork with common household or office items
19. Share your feelings and experiences on life lessons
20. Show and describe something weird about your body or mind
21. Show and explain what products you use to get ready in the morning
22. Show and explain what's in your attic
23. Show and explain what's in your backpack
24. Show and explain what's in your bag
25. Show and explain what's in your closet
26. Show and explain what's in your garage
27. Show and explain what's in your refrigerator / pantry
28. Show and explain what's in your yard
29. Show and explain your collection of whatever you collect

30. Show and explain your old game collection

Meme It

You know, a meme. That viral idea that slammed into you from some video, bunch of images, or your Facebook wall. It may not make much sense, but it'll be a funny hot topic for at least a month.

1. Be VERY annoying, very obscure, and very frequently
2. Do a parody or recreate the meme: 300 / Sparta
3. Do a parody or recreate the meme: 404 Girl
4. Do a parody or recreate the meme: All Your Base are Belong to Us
5. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Ask a Ninja
6. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Badger Badger Badger
7. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Bed Intruder Song
8. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Blair Witch Project
9. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Brian Peppers
10. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Bubb Rubb (woo wooooo!)
11. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Bunny Pancake (AKA Oolong)
12. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Buy A Dog
13. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Candlejack
14. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Catnarok
15. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Caturday
16. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Charlie Bit My Finger
17. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Charlie the Unicorn
18. Do a parody or recreate the meme: ChatRoulette silliness
19. Do a parody or recreate the meme: chocolate rain
20. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Chuck Norris
21. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Dancing Baby
22. Do a parody or recreate the meme: dancing banana
23. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Dancing Matt / Where the hell is Matt
24. Do a parody or recreate the meme: David After Dentist
25. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Demotivators
26. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Diabeetus
27. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Diet Coke and Mentos
28. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Do a barrel roll!
29. Do a parody or recreate the meme: DO NOT WANT
30. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Do the Loituma Girl / leekspin

31. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Don't Tase Me, Bro!
32. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Dramatic Chipmunk
33. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Epic Fail Guy
34. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Facepalm
35. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Fred Figglehorn
36. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Goodtimes virus
37. Do a parody or recreate the meme: hamster dance
38. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Happycat
39. Do a parody or recreate the meme: I Like Turtles
40. Do a parody or recreate the meme: I See What You Did There
41. Do a parody or recreate the meme: IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER
42. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Impossible Is Nothing
43. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Ken Lee
44. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Large Hadron Collider
45. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Leave Britney Alone!
46. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Leeroy Jenkins
47. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Literal Music Video
48. Do a parody or recreate the meme: LOLcat
49. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Lonelygirl15
50. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Longcat
51. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Moar
52. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Mudkips
53. Do a parody or recreate the meme: My Bucket!
54. Do a parody or recreate the meme: numa numa
55. Do a parody or recreate the meme: O RLY?
56. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Obama Girl
57. Do a parody or recreate the meme: OK Go
58. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Over 9000
59. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Pants on the Ground
60. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Pool's Closed
61. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Prison Thriller
62. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Profit!
63. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Rickroll
64. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Salad Fingers
65. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Star Wars Kid
66. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Stiff / Still Body
67. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Techno Viking
68. Do a parody or recreate the meme: The Annoying Orange
69. Do a parody or recreate the meme: The cake is a lie

- 70. Do a parody or recreate the meme: This Looks Shopped
- 71. Do a parody or recreate the meme: Ventrilo Harassment
- 72. Do a parody or recreate the meme: What Is Love?
- 73. Repeat a catchy phrase while you do something silly

Mimicry

Go ahead and copy the folks that have already made it – they won't mind. BUT, don't use their music. You have to do the vocals AND the music track. Get creative – it'll be worth it.

1. Make a cover of a TV show or movie theme song
2. Make a cover of a video game theme song
3. Make a cover song of a really bad 2000's song
4. Make a cover song of a really bad 70's song
5. Make a cover song of a really bad 80's song
6. Make a cover song of a really bad 90's song
7. Make a cover song of the latest or hottest song
8. Make a cover song of another YouTuber's song
9. Make a cover song of your favorite song as a kid
10. Make a parody, cover, or re-enactment of a random song from a friend
11. Make a parody of the latest or hottest commercial
12. Make a parody of the latest or hottest band
13. Make a parody of the latest or hottest meme
14. Make a parody of the latest or hottest movie
15. Make a parody of the latest or hottest song

People Play

Making other people laugh is a good thing! This one has a mixture of having fun with you and other people as the butt of the joke. All in good fun, of course.

1. Ask people silly questions at a public place like the mall
2. Attach a bag of fake groceries to your car's roof
3. Be extremely nice to everyone for a day, I mean like way too super nice
4. Change family computer default sounds to funny blurbs by you
5. Change keyboard keys around on the family computer
6. Change the keyboard setting in the family computer to the 'dvorak' layout

7. Get all super sweaty and don't bath for a day or so and then go out
8. Go to a grocery store and buy all of something very cheap that's on the shelf
9. Have a "stupid human tricks" competition amongst your friends
10. Have a booger comparison contest with your closest buds
11. Have a burping competition with friends and strangers
12. Have a farting competition in the movie theater
13. Figure out at least 7 ways to annoy your family members
14. Just give random hugs to people you see at stores
15. Make a "Crayola marker tattoo" on your body and go out shopping
16. Draw or paint eyeballs on your eyelids and go out
17. Pick a letter and replace that letter with another one in everything you say
18. Play the "I'm not touching you" game with a sibling or your dad and mom
19. Prank call someone with the purpose of talking nice to them as long as you can
20. Pretend to be an employee at a store and answer questions people have
21. Put a thin layer of bar soap on another person's toothbrush
22. Put way too much cologne or perfume on and go out
23. See who can get the muddiest or dirtiest
24. See who can pop the biggest pimple
25. See who has the best looking or biggest scab, scar, or wound
26. Stand at a corner with a bucket and rag and offer to wash cars or windows
27. Stare out of the window of your house or car; say nothing and don't move
28. Watch an annoying movie over and over on TV; don't budge when your family members try to pry you away and always laugh profusely
29. Wear your clothes backwards and go out while you pretend all is well

Physical Limits

How much can your body take before you give out? How about your friends? I'm thinking these videos will be very long for some folks, but very short for most. Test yourself!

1. Have a competition with friends to see who can jump up and down the longest
2. How long can you sit Indian-style and still walk afterwards?
3. How long can you squat against a wall without falling?
4. How many football passes can you and a buddy make in 1 minute?
5. How many hats can you try on in 1 minute?
6. How many pants can you wear at once?
7. How many pillows can you grab at once?

8. How many pushups, sit-ups, or crunches can you do in 1 minute?
9. How many shirts can you wear at once?
10. How many shoes can you try on in 1 minute?
11. How many summersaults can you do?
12. How many times can you climb over the fence before getting tired?
13. See who can do a handstand the longest amongst friends
14. Get some friends and see who can do the most consecutive cart-wheels
15. Who can do the most jumping jacks?
16. Who can do the most laps in the pool?
17. Who can hit the most number of golf balls in 1 minute?
18. Who can hula-hoop the longest?
19. Who can jog in place the longest?
20. Who can jump the farthest?
21. Who can jump the highest?
22. Who can jump-rope the longest?
23. Who can make the most number of basketball baskets in 1 minute?
24. Who can stand in one spot the longest without falling?
25. Who can throw the most number of balls in 1 minute?

Reality Barrier

Break free of the way you think the world is supposed to work. Twist it up, turn it around, and flip it on its other side. Be original, creative, and have a dang fun time doing it. You might learn something, too!

1. A piece of fruit turns out to be alive and a comedian, ninja, or politician
2. Ants, spiders, or other bugs are in your house and start talking to you.
3. Build a gigantic sand-castle and play around inside of it. Or maybe use a green screen and some creative commons licensed images.
4. Create a dummy with stuff around the house and have a conversation with it
5. Discuss life lessons with your favorite furniture
6. Fairies, trolls, elves, and gnomes live in your house and finally reveal their existence. Oh and you're their ruler.
7. Respond to glitches in real life (think of computer style glitches turned into real life things and events)
8. Have a tea party with stuffed animals; it's okay to go wild
9. Listen to the plants and trees and react accordingly
10. Live a day in your Lego scene; use real ones or a green screen

11. Place yourself inside a childhood fairy tale or story and re-enact it
12. Play dress-up with family or friends; yes I know you're old now
13. Pretend to be a fish in a local park pond
14. Pretend to be a super-hero at the grocery store
15. Pretend to be in the profession you always wanted to be in
16. Pretend to be the role-model you always wanted to be
17. Pretend to fly through space and travel the universe
18. Pretend you are in a very bad video game
19. Pretend you are in your favorite video game
20. Pretend your life or job is a particular software program
21. Pretend your life or job is a popular website
22. Pretend your life is a computer program and has glitches
23. Pretend your life is inside of a computer or vending machine
24. Pretend your real life is a video game
25. Pretend to prove someone is really an awesome person
26. Pretend to prove someone is really a clone
27. Pretend to prove someone is really a monster
28. Pretend to prove someone is really a ninja
29. Pretend to prove someone is really a piece of fruit
30. Pretend to prove someone is really a robot
31. Pretend to prove someone is really a secret agent
32. Pretend to prove someone is really an Avon salesperson
33. Re-enact a party scene were something very silly happened
34. Re-enact a really cool, funky, or weird dream you had
35. Re-enact something remarkable that happened to you
36. Re-enact the first time you asked someone out on a date
37. Re-enact the first time you drove a car
38. Re-enact the first time you went on a blind date
39. Re-enact the first time you went on a double-date
40. Re-enact the first time you went on a job interview
41. Re-enact the first time you were disciplined by your parents
42. Re-enact the most memorable event that has ever happened to you
43. Re-enact your marriage proposal or reception
44. Re-enact your very best dream ever
45. Re-enact your very worst dream ever
46. Re-enact your wedding day
47. Show how a phone really works
48. Show how data is really stored on a DVD, CD, or memory card.
49. Show the day's events through the perspective of a car

50. Show the day's events through the perspective of a house
51. Show the day's events through the perspective of a pen
52. Show the day's events through the perspective of a toy
53. Show the day's events through the perspective of air
54. Show the day's events through the perspective of bacteria
55. Show the day's events through the perspective of clothes
56. Show the day's events through the perspective of food
57. Show the day's events through the perspective of the grass
58. Show the day's events through the perspective of the sidewalk
59. Show the day's events through the perspective of the sun
60. Show the day's events through the perspective of water
61. Show what's really going on behind the scenes in a movie or TV show
62. Shrink yourself down into the toys or scenes most memorable to you. (might need a green screen)
63. Pretend a stuffed animal comes to life and is annoying you by asking too many questions. Be overly dramatic, please.
64. Talk to animals about life lessons
65. The appliances in your house are conspiring against you
66. The cake is a lie - you must have the pie - they fight it out to the death
67. The carpet in your house reveals its true origins and intentions
68. The light bulbs and light fixtures talk to you
69. The wires in your house come to life and try to come after you
70. Talk about things you wish existed (strange combinations of things)
71. Those faces you can see in the wall or ceiling texture come to life
72. What are clouds, really?
73. What is grass, really?
74. What is that bright object in the sky? Is it a giant's flashlight or a bug's nose?
75. What really does the cooking work in a microwave?
76. What really happens when you aren't using your oven?
77. What really happens when you close the fridge door?
78. What's going on in your backpack, purse, or bag when you aren't around?
79. What's going on in your mailbox when you aren't around?
80. What's really going on inside of your TV?
81. Where does the rain really come from?
82. Where does the wind really come from?
83. Who really lives in the trees?
84. Yell at picture of a dead president
85. You are telekinetic; use it (and fancy editing) to go through normal activities
86. You cough, burp, or sneeze fire, lightning, or stuffed animals; live a day like this

87. You invent, find, or get a deep sea teleporter - have fun with it
88. You invent, find, or get a flying car - have fun with it
89. You invent, find, or get a hotdog cannon - have fun with it
90. You invent, find, or get a laser helmet - have fun with it
91. You invent, find, or get a lemon coat - have fun with it
92. You invent, find, or get a light-saber - have fun with it
93. You invent, find, or get a marshmallow chair - have fun with it
94. You invent, find, or get a Martian butler - have fun with it
95. You invent, find, or get a meatloaf ice-cream - have fun with it
96. You invent, find, or get a milk chocolate shoes- have fun with it
97. You invent, find, or get a mini-hovercraft - have fun with it
98. You invent, find, or get a paper wardrobe - have fun with it
99. You invent, find, or get a plasma hand claws - have fun with it
100. You invent, find, or get a robot dog - have fun with it
101. You invent, find, or get a space bubble - have fun with it
102. You invent, find, or get a time stopping device - have fun with it
103. You invent, find, or get an alien tool or weapon - have fun with it
104. Your couch comes to life and reveals it has a crush on you
105. Your shower head no longer likes you and rebels
106. Your toilet paper finally gets the nerve up to voice its opinions

Self-Silliness

Jokes on yourself are always the best. Most people will either laugh because you're silly or just because it's not them at the end of the joke. It's good, humbling fun!

1. Cover your entire face with Vaseline and go to a store
2. Drink a shot of hot sauce
3. Drink an entire jar of pickled jalapeño juice
4. Drink an entire jar of pickle juice
5. Drink one ounce of white vinegar
6. Drink orange juice and milk mixed together
7. Eat 10 crackers in under 1 minute
8. Eat 15 prunes and report back on your day's findings
9. Eat a package of raw noodles
10. Eat an entire loaf of bread
11. Eat an entire raw onion; careful here as there are some tummy side-effects
12. Eat an entire watermelon

13. Eat as many bananas as you can
14. Eat as much plain flour as you can
15. Eat as much raw rice as you can
16. Eat four cucumbers at a time
17. Eat raw peppers - lots of them
18. Eat something weird from an ethnic store
19. Mix 1 cup of cornstarch with water and drink it
20. See how big of a gum bubble you can blow
21. See how many marshmallows you can fit in your mouth
22. See how many Skittles you can fit in your mouth and then chew them all up
23. See how much gum you can chew at once
24. Snort 8 ounces of buttermilk cream
25. Snort black pepper
26. Snort wasabi sauce or powder
27. Style your hair with Vaseline and go to a store
28. Tape your ears forward, your nose up, and go to a store
29. Write silly, funny, or nice messages on your face and go to a store

Show and Tell

Share your expertise with others out there. More and more people are looking for videos to figure out how to get things done. You can be the one to help them. Advanced or basic, they'll find it.

1. Do a "case mod" tutorial on your computer
2. Do a tutorial on a complex function, a funky routine in Excel, or other programs
3. Do a tutorial on how to perform a neat trick in your audio editing software
4. Do a tutorial on how to perform a neat trick in your image editing software
5. Do a tutorial on how to perform a neat trick in your video software
6. Do a tutorial on swapping out hard drives for your computer
7. Do a tutorial on swapping out memory for your computer
8. Do software or hardware tutorials
9. Do some drawings or sketches
10. Get a bunch of random things and mix them together and see what you get
11. Show how you customized your operating system and give some hints
12. Show off or review a neat program you found, especially the lesser known ones
13. Show yourself building a sand-castle
14. Show yourself building woodworking, metalworking, or sewing

15. Show yourself doing a hobby you enjoy
16. Show yourself drawing a famous person, icon, cartoon, or game character
17. Show yourself drawing a nature scene
18. Show yourself drawing something abstract or abnormal
19. Show yourself enhancing, beefing up, or beautifying someone in an image editing program
20. Show yourself painting a famous person, icon, cartoon, or game character
21. Show yourself painting a nature scene
22. Show yourself painting something abstract or abnormal
23. Show yourself editing a famous person in an awkward background or setting
24. Show yourself editing pictures
25. Show yourself editing random items into or onto people
26. Show yourself editing yourself into a famous place or setting
27. Show yourself putting a Lego object or scene together
28. Show yourself putting a model together
29. Make a PowerPoint meme pictures slideshow

Socialize

Plain and simple interacting with the folks who are watching your videos. It's okay if it's only 3 friends, your mom, and your cat. Get them to leave a comment and then respond to it. It's all about connecting and making the world a more friendly place.

1. Answer questions from your viewers or folks who left comments
2. Do something the viewers suggested in the comments, via email, or with YouTube Moderator

Story Twister

Get people all setup for certain expectations or stories and then go all out on it. Twist it up, use your imagination, and really go to town on getting people ruffled up and interested.

1. Act or live a day as if you were never born
2. Be very suspicious around someone and pretend they stole your cupcake
3. Order things from a drive-through that have nothing to do with the restaurant
4. Pretend that someone is following you
5. Pretend that the Flying Spaghetti Monster's Reptilian Overlords are after you

6. Pretend the government is out to get you
7. Pretend you are a medieval knight or adventurer
8. Pretend you are a powerful magician
9. Pretend you have full-blown amnesia, you can't remember anything
10. Pretend you have limited amnesia, you can't remember where you live
11. Pretend you have limited amnesia, you can't remember your words (talk gibberish and maybe drool a little)
12. Pretend you just slew a dragon and the brood is after you
13. Question yourself about something you did a week ago and then prove you actually did it. Ask yourself 'why?' and answer at least five times.
14. Re-enact the last 2/3 of a story or skit, and then do the first 1/3 to totally twist it up. The element of surprise is priceless.
15. Tell an in-depth and emotional story of your life and finish with a very irrelevant ending. They'll love you for it.
16. Tell a story about your childhood and then at the end tell them it was someone else's. Hey, a short bout of amnesia isn't your fault.
17. You forget how to use colors and can only describe general characteristics
18. You wake up and realize the last 5 yrs of life was a dream

How's that for some ideas?



Video Production Tips

Now here's a pretty big list of production, and post-production, tips that should help bring your video game up a notch. It covers basic videography, getting your audio and video basics in order, and some simple lessons learned from my YouTube journey. Take a deep breath, they're pretty hefty, but well worth the effort.

- ✓ Make your video nice and edit it to capture the audience's attention, but just do it. Don't just sit around and be scared. You never know who'll watch it and that's okay. So just do it for your own enjoyment. The experience you gain will help make you better and grow your confidence. If you're not careful, you can plan yourself to death.
- ✓ Create an appropriate scene and the background does matter. Clean your room, hide your unmentionables, and cover your credit card numbers.
- ✓ Try to have plenty of soft lighting on your subject as no one wants to see a very dimly lit, low contrast scene. Open the blinds and do it during the day if you have to. Keep the window or other bright light sources out of the frame because it will wash out your shot making it hard to see.
- ✓ If you're looking for some very cheap lighting ideas, we're talking under \$15 here, then I have a few videos you should check out. One of them talks about my home-grown 3-point lighting setup and the other is a tutorial on how to make a key-light. I like to do it on the cheap!
 - [Light It Up for \\$15! \(Cheap General Purpose Light\)](#)
 - [\\$35 Studio Lighting \(3-Point Setup\)](#)
- ✓ You probably already have a video camera around the house somewhere, and it might even be your fancy smart phone. Anything will work, really. I use a super-cheap [Kodak Zi8 HD video camera](#) and it does everything I want and more. My affiliate link will lead you over to the Amazon page so you can see the full specs.

WARNING: I just checked the Amazon page and the price is way crazy now. I bought it for \$99 and it is listing for over \$400 now. Do NOT buy it for that price, please. Apparently, Amazon is out of stock and 3rd party vendors are being shady. Check out this price graph:



- ✓ The star, heart, and rotating cube video transitions are annoying and usually detract from overall viewer entertainment. Use transitions sparingly. Aim for subtle. Dissolves are a nice choice.
- ✓ You don't need the lightning effect for every scene, cloning yourself is cool but should be used sparingly, and just because the program supports making your skin purple doesn't mean it needs to be used. Effects are not a crutch - don't let them use you.
- ✓ Transcribing your videos is tough work and I don't think anyone likes to do it, but it really does help those in need. It also helps those that understand different languages as they can translate your text into their language. Consider doing it only for your very popular videos, if you like. I believe this text will be used by search engines someday, too.
- ✓ Use audio transitions if your program supports it. A "Constant Power" audio transition can take a very sharp pop between your cuts and turn it into a seamless connection between two scenes.
- ✓ Maintain a constant volume level throughout the video. Constant changes in volume can be annoying to the viewer. Use your program's internal 'Mixer' feature if it has it.

- ✓ FFMPEG is a command-line tool for converting video to some other less-standard formats. You probably won't need it (ever), but it's here for you to Google it if you do.
- ✓ Some sample audio settings: MPEG-4 (MP4) container, MP3 or AAC codec, 44 [khz] or better, 128 [kbs] or better bitrate.
- ✓ Some sample video settings: MPEG-4 (MP4) container, H.264 or MPEG-2 codec, ~2Mbps bitrate, 720p or greater, if you can. I exclusively use CBR encoding (it will always look better than 2 pass VBR, but will always have a bigger file size); use a bit rate >4Mbps for videos with constant movement.
- ✓ Be energetic, funny, entertaining (when appropriate) and DO NOT MUMBLE! Practice and psych yourself up before shooting.
- ✓ If your message can be said in 30 seconds to 2 minutes, then do it in less than 2 minutes. Period. It's okay to leave some questions unanswered. It might even help your viewers ask some questions and gain some interaction, which is good!
- ✓ Have some form of 'hook' to entice and keep people coming back and to reward those who are in on the inside joke.
- ✓ Try to treat every video as a stand-alone. Don't let any single video depend too much on others in your library. The majority of people will not go back and watch all of your old videos.
- ✓ Do not add letterbox bars (black lines on top and bottom) or pillarbox bars (black lines on the left and right). Sites like YouTube will do that automatically to fit the player.
- ✓ You don't have to do all of the work in one day. Shoot one day, process another, upload shortly after, and do your keyword research after that. Also, since setup time is usually a big deal, why not shoot 2 or 3 videos at one time and just edit them as you get ready to release them?
- ✓ Ensure you have decent sound: what's the point of a presentation if you can't be heard clearly? I use this really cool [Audio-Technica ATR6550 shotgun microphone](#) (this is an affiliate link over to Amazon). It's like zooming in on my

voice. Just remember to turn it on before you start recording. It sucks to record a whole scene without audio. But hey, it happens. Just shoot again.

- ✓ Try something new every once in a while: scene change, more actors, new format, et cetera.
- ✓ If you ever plan to become a money-making partner, then you can't use other people's stuff without permission. The YouTube ContentID software will automatically detect copyrighted music and immediately disable your video. Even if you get it put back up, making money off of copyrighted material is wrong and you will eventually be penalized for it.
- ✓ Speaking of making money, consider investing some time and resources into a [great training course to boost your traffic](#) and YouTube ad revenue.
- ✓ If you must have an intro scene, then make it short. No one wants to sit through the same 20 to 30 second introduction every time they see your video.
- ✓ The outro sequence is a good opportunity to advertise your website, channel, other social networks. If they made it this far, then they probably care.

You're a video star now!



Thank You, Friend!

I really do hope you get out there and record some stuff. Don't worry about whether or not you think it's good, just have fun. This is a time to experiment and see what works. Learn from what doesn't and move on. This is fun stuff.

Oh and who knows, maybe YouTube will notice you and start offering you money for your hard work. It's awesome to get paid for doing things you like to do. A real game changer, for sure.

YouTube helps me bring in **over \$840 per year**. Not too shabby for my handful of boring videos, right? Think what you could do with more entertainment and viral movies. [Click here to get more traffic.](#)

Oh and since you hung around this long and I know you're a fine, upstanding person, I'd like to offer you a special gift. Please don't pass this link out as it's just for you fine people that bought my book. Here is a direct link to a [PDF containing 15 more pages of video ideas](#). You'll never run out, I guarantee it!

Have a great journey into movie making land.

Thank you.



About Richard N. Stephenson

I run a blog over at <http://richardstep.com> that is dedicated to a no-fluff, you-can-use-it-now kind of self-help. It's what I like to call **Self-Help to Live By**.

Now let me dip into third-person mode for a bit so I can talk about myself.

Richard N. Stephenson is the Mentor/Owner/Operator (MOO) of RichardStep: Self-Help to Live By. His work helps thousands of people discover more about themselves daily. He has a history of project engineering for NASA, shaping multi-million dollar projects for oil & gas giants, and designing self-discovery tests on richardstep.com.



Richard spent the beginning of the new millennium fighting off cancer. Having questioned all that could be questioned, he realized the good Lord wasn't ready for him, yet. Richard has made it his life's goal to guide the growing, mentor the willing, and help those in need.

He lives near Houston, TX, with his extraordinary wife, adorable kids, and overgrown backyard.

I do hope you'll come visit me at the blog, tweet me a time or two, and maybe even swing me an email. Thanks again for your patronage and I truly hope it helps.

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- Cover Page, female making a rectangular frame with her fingers
- Various Pages, cartoon of man having a light bulb idea

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