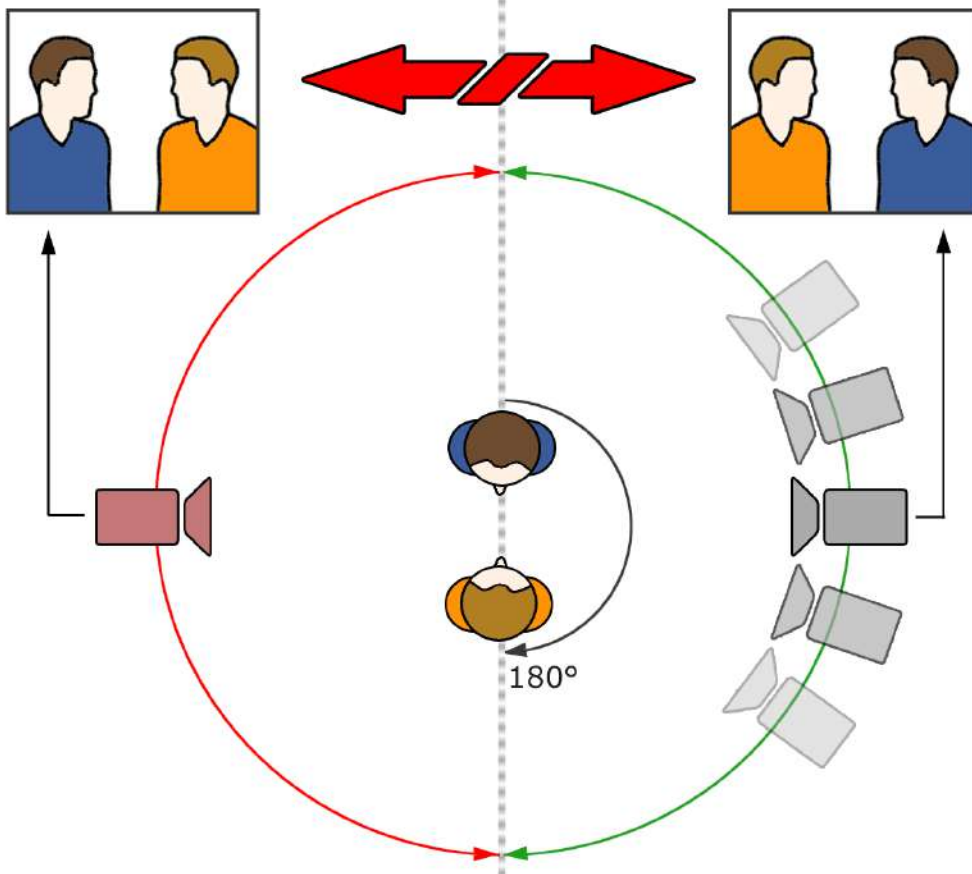


180 Degree Rule of Composition

Continuity is a big part of filmmaking. If you're shooting a short film or interview, it's important to set the scene and establish your characters in space and time in order for the viewer to follow the action. One of the most basic continuity rules is the 180 Degree Rule.

The 180 Degree Rule states that two characters in a scene should always have the same left/right relationship to each other. If you don't follow the 180 Degree Rule, or break it intentionally, it disrupts the scene disorients the audience. When you break the 180 line, a person who was originally facing left in a scene is all of the sudden facing right. Wait! When did they switch places?



Camera should not cross the Action Line. This shot will confuse your audience	The camera can freely move on this side of the Action Line.
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Whether there are two people or more in the scene, there is an "Action Line" or "180 Degree Line" that divides the space around them in half. (One half of a circle is 180 degrees).