Remember the Titans – Film Techniques
Camera Shots

• Just as in writing, film uses techniques to produce different responses in their audience.

• Short sentences are used for impact in writing, but certain camera shots are chosen for exactly that effect as well.

• Each camera shot is picked with the intention of delivering a very specific effect on the audience.
Camera shots

There are 8 main camera shots which are each picked for a particular effect.

- Point of view shot
- High-angle shot
- Over the shoulder shot
- Close-up shot
- Extreme close-up
- Low angle shot
- Medium Shot (mid-shot)
- Long shot

These are occasionally played around with to make new versions, depending on what suits the director – for example, a director could use two of these shots for an effect.

Eg. Low angle/mid-shot
• Point of view shot
  The audience sees the situation from the character’s position.
• High-angle shot
  Suggests character’s smallness, weakness or isolation.
  The audience is in a powerful position.
• Over the shoulder shot
  Focuses the audience’s attention on one character.
• Close-up shot
  Concentrates attention.
  Shows character’s emotion.
  Puts audience in a privileged position.

• Extreme close up shot
  Audience in intimate relationship.
  Shows a character’s intimate feelings.
• Low angle shot
  Suggests character’s bigness, strength or dominance.
  Audience in weak position.
• Medium Shot
  Situates character in immediate environment, yet still shows emotion.
• Long shot
  Shows the context and setting of the shot.
For each of the following shots:

Think about what camera shot has been used.

Why might the director have chosen that shot for the scene?

How is it effective?
Low Angle (Mid Shot)

This shot is a mid-shot, but it is also a slight low angle shot. The mix of these two shots are effective because the mid-shot shows us Boone as the leader, while still showing us the other coaches and their place behind him. The slight low angle makes Boone appear stronger and more dominant, which is the way the players see him. We see him as he appears to the players.
We know that there are issues between the two races, and this shot helps us see that even more clearly. The long shot is used because it shows us the surrounding scene as well as what is happening with Boone, Gerry and Ray. We also see that Boone is essentially on his own, while the white people in a large group. The over-the-shoulder shot lets us see this event from the perspective of the white crowd of people, as we are essentially one of them in this shot.
The long shot is a good choice here because it serves two purposes. It establishes to the audience where this scene is taking place (Gettysburg College) but is also shows us the physical distance between Ray and Petey. It hints at the distance between them emotionally as well, because their race is standing between them. A close-up of each of the players individually would not be as effective. This way we see Petey’s reactions and body language response to Ray’s comments.
This is a great example of the over-the-shoulder shot shows us. We see what Sunshine and Blue are seeing (the bar owner who is right in the middle of the shot), but we are also really seeing through the eyes of Petey, who is behind Blue and Sunshine. Petey didn’t want to go inside, and this shot shows him distancing himself from the conflict.
High-angle shot

This high angle shot is effective because it shows the Titans as a tight, cohesive team. The audience can see that the whole group has banded together, and are lifting their hands in unison. The empty space in the gym reinforces the idea that they have come together again, and suggests that they are willing to work and compete as a team. A low angle shot would not give us this image.