

Photographing Documents:

Using a mobile phone to copy
and transmit documents

Gerald Recktenwald

gerry@pdx.edu

Portland State University

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A little knowledge and a little effort will
make your document photos better

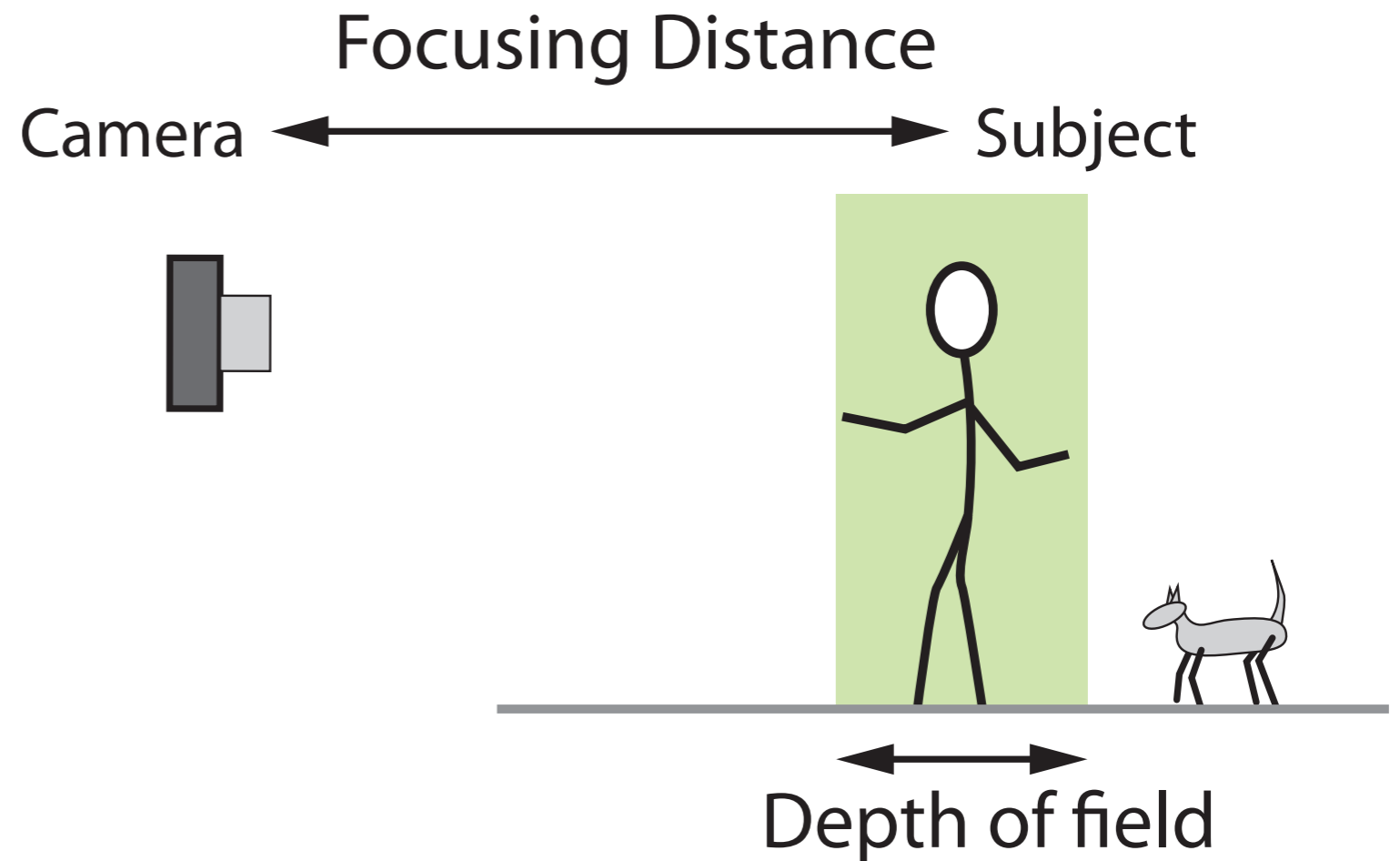
In a nutshell

1. Keep the camera parallel to the plane of the document
2. Provide good light
3. Hold the camera steady

Depth of Field

Depth of field is the thickness of the space that is in focus

Small aperture lenses have thin depth of field

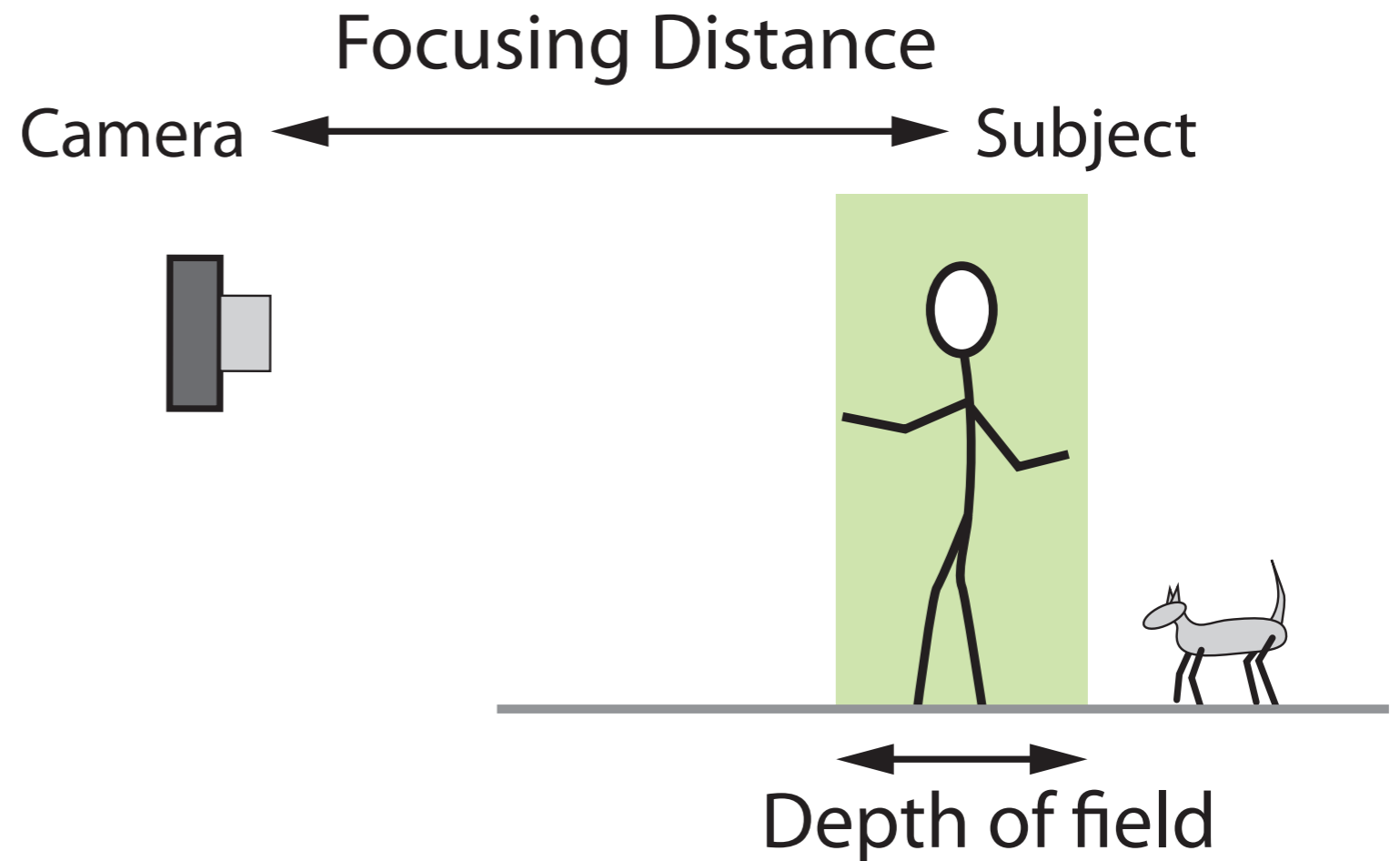


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On almost all mobile phones, the aperture is fixed at small f (1.4 - 2.0).

Therefore, **you can only indirectly control DOF on your mobile phone by changing your focusing distance.**



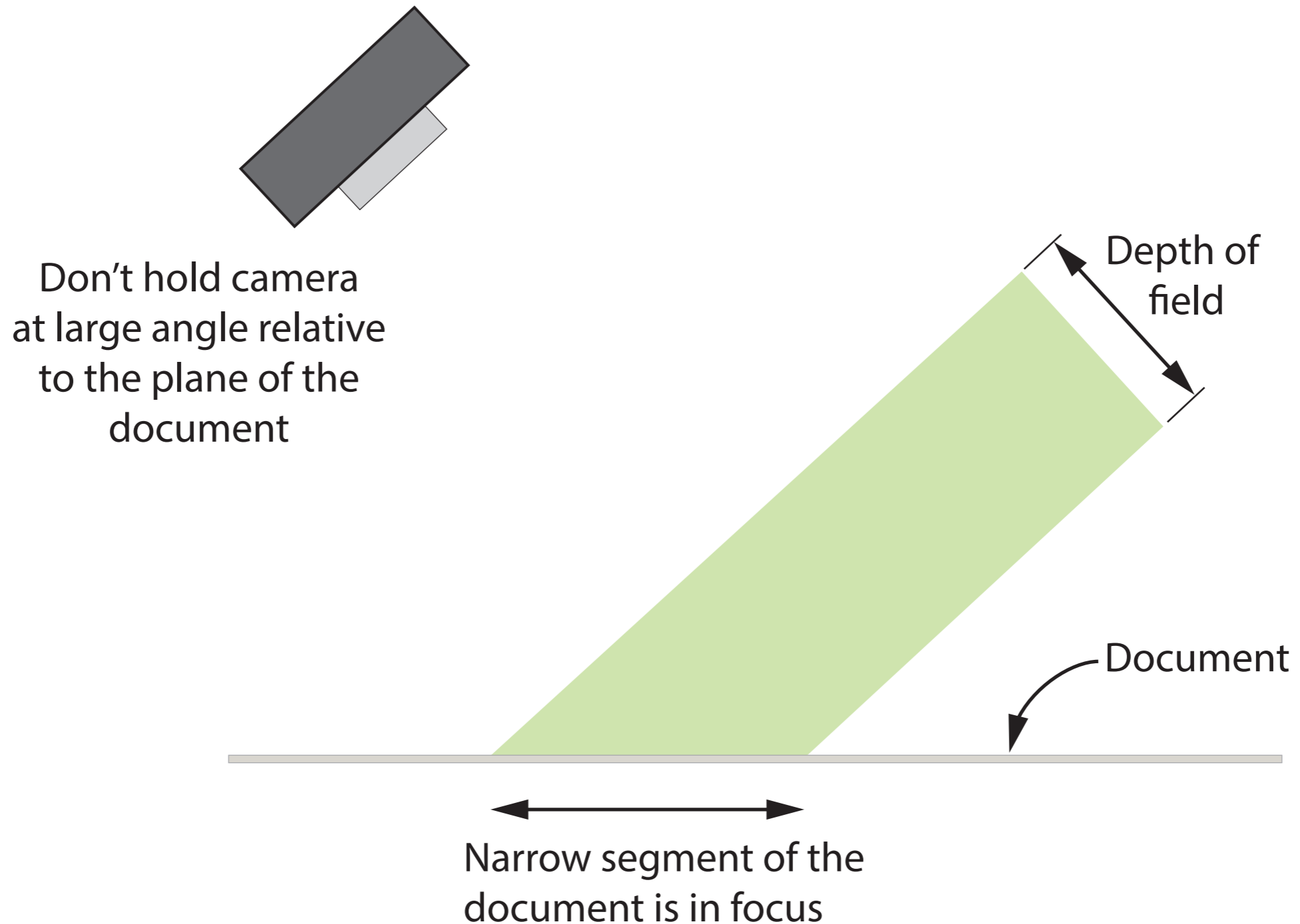
Depth of field limits how much of your image is in focus



Depth of field limits how much of your image is in focus

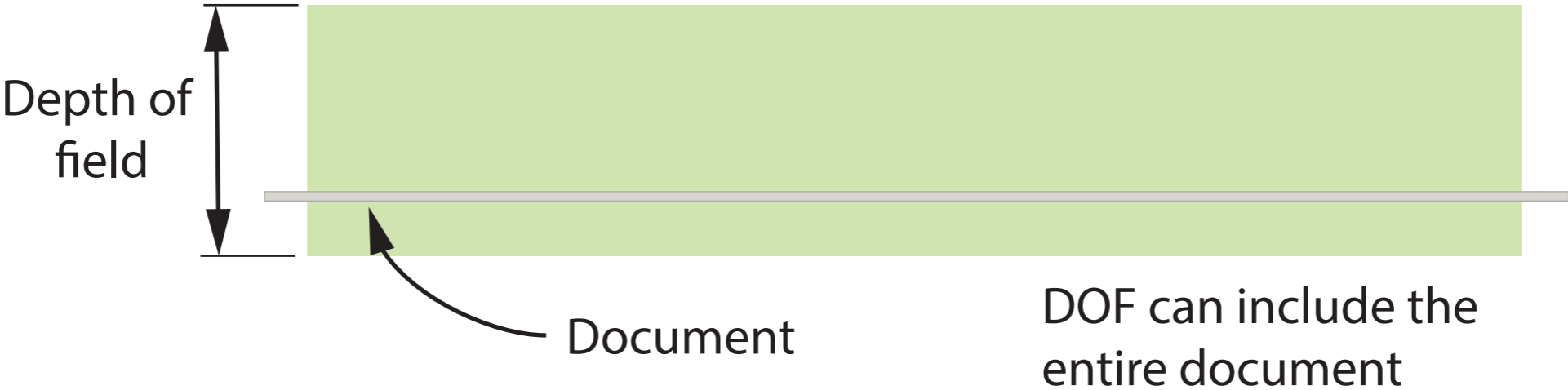
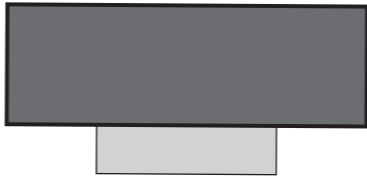


Photographing documents at an angle will not produce a good result



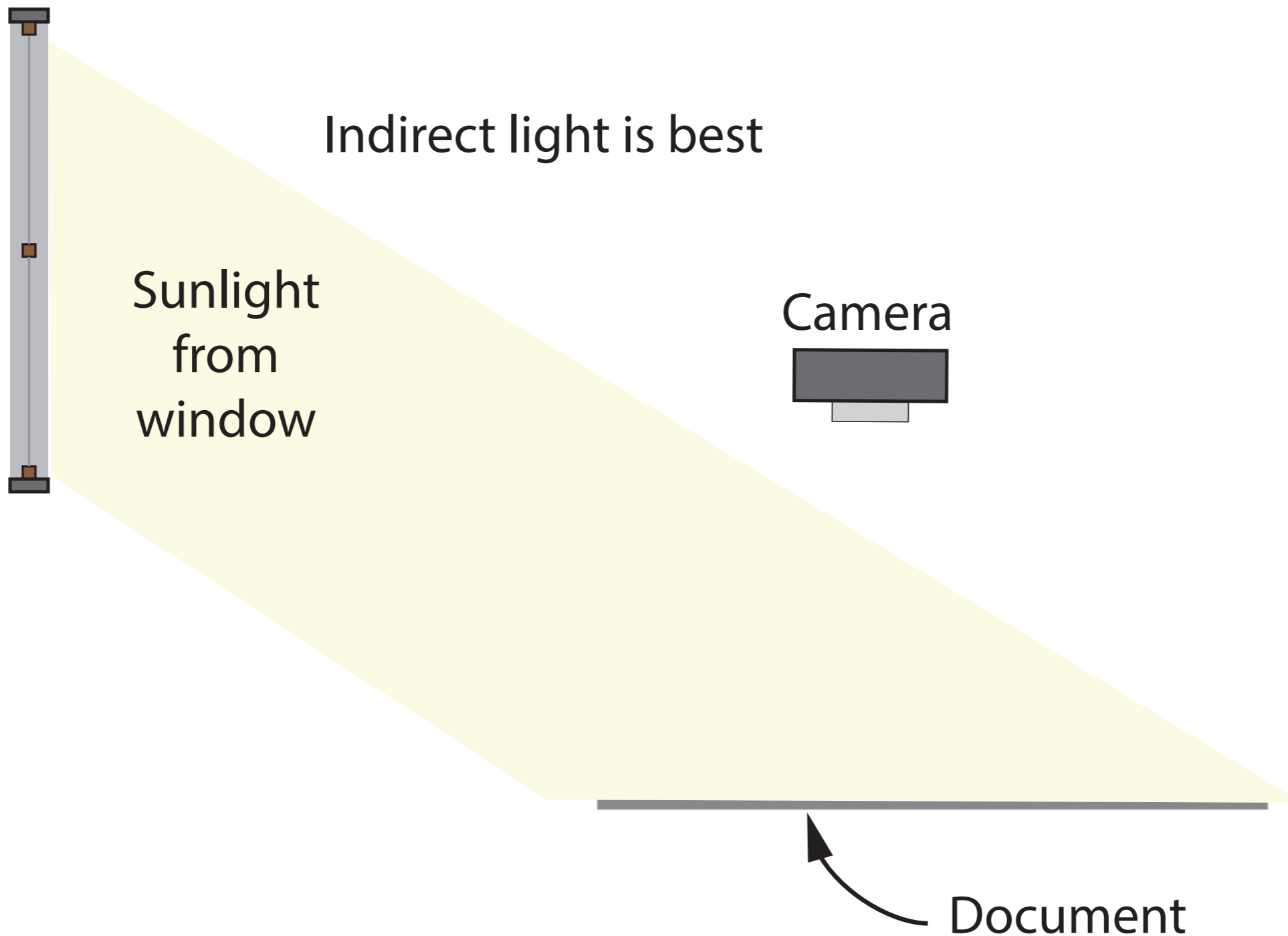
Instead, try to keep the camera parallel to the plane of the document

Hold the camera parallel to the plane of the document



Use more light.
Avoid shadows

Use soft light from a nearby window.
Avoid bright, glaring, direct light



Hold the camera steady

- Use a weight to hold the document in place
- A binder clip will help keep pages flat
- Hold the camera with both hands

Of course, having an assistant also helps, but it is not necessary.

Summary

Your mobile phone can make good copies

Paying attention to little details will make a difference.

- Hold camera parallel to the plane of the document.
- Place your document in good light.
- Keep your camera (phone) steady.
- Take a couple of shots: choose a good one