Online Education

Make sure to have fun. If you make it enjoyable for you as the professor, the students will receive the content better.

Best practices for web lectures.

Modified and sourced from https://www.greatspeech.co/video-presentations/

1) AUDIO –
Get a darn good microphone

As counterintuitive as it may sound, the single most important factor in a good video, is the audio quality. People will readily watch a shaky, grainy, amateur video with good sound, but force them to struggle to hear what’s being said and they’ll switch off in seconds.

A good mic is a great investment.

CAD USB U37 Studio microphone $59 - $79
Snowball USB Condenser Microphone $69
Yeti USB Microphone $129

Use your favorite online retailer

2) ELIMINATE AMBIENT NOISE –
Close the window

You want to find a quiet spot to do your recording. Close all the windows, and ask your neighbor to turn the music down or suspend the lawn mowing whilst you record. You’d be surprised how much environmental noise gets picked up.

Try explaining to everyone in the house what you are trying to do and have them stick to the other areas in your home that would not be picked up by your mics.
Online!

Best practices for web lectures. continued

Modified and sourced from https://www.greatspeech.co/video-presentations/

3) DON’T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE CAMERA

Despite the fact that people often get consumed by the type of camera they’re using, this is probably the least of your problems. Nowadays, webcams are GOOD ENOUGH that you are likely to get decent footage.

So, unless you need to shoot at Hollywood blockbuster levels, you are likely to get decent footage.

2) REMEMBER THAT BOX TICKED OFF.

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6) FRAMING & CAMERA POSTION

Yes, you should be seen. Make sure that your whole face is in frame for proper framing – centering is fine and another handy concept is the rule of thirds.

Be careful of the angle though. The lens should either be directly level or be pointing ever so slightly downwards towards your face.

4) LIGHTING – not overhead!

Do think about lighting.

Next to good audio, it’s another one of those big technicalities that can have a big impact on the quality of your video.

Don’t put any lights or windows behind you. They’ll mess with the light levels on your video. Don’t stand under your room spotlights – especially if the top of your head gets really shiny like mine!

Go for bright, soft lighting coming from behind the camera to light up your beautiful face.

5) BACKGROUND

Although white walls are boring, make sure you don’t have anything too distracting behind you. Have something innocuous but discernible in the background. Don’t be afraid to show your natural environment e.g. bookcases, plants, paintings – as long as they are not too distracting.

If people are watching you on video, chances are they have many other demands on their time and attention – that YouTube clip of the baby biting his brother’s finger, Facebook notifications popping up every 30 seconds, that email from their boss that has to be answered.

Keep it short. Keep it engaging. If it’s going online, remember that anything longer than 5 minutes will experience a sharp drop off in audience viewing.

11) WHAT YOU WEAR

No need to worry too much about what you wear as long as you avoid some basic mistakes. Don’t wear stripes or overly bold patterns (they look odd on camera). Don’t wear clunky jewelry. Do try to match the color you wear as long as you avoid some basic mistakes.

12) BE YOURSELF – only more

What feels odd in person, looks good on camera.

Movement is fine, but too much is distracting.

13) GOOD POSTURE – Sit up straight (like your mama told you)

What feels odd in person, looks good on camera.

Think about the way people pose for red carpet shots (like the ladies of the wonder-fully uplifting Hidden Figures movie). No one stands like that in real life, but on camera it looks great.

Sit or stand straight, even if it’s uncom-fortable. Don’t hunch over, don’t use odd angles.

I have sloping shoulders so when recording on camera I actually lift my shoulders up ever so slightly. It feels odd, even fake, but it works.

We are psychologically wired to be more accepting and attracted to symmetry. So aim for clear, straight lines where you can.

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14) USE YOUR HANDS – but not too much

Movement is fine, but too much is distracting.

Don’t be afraid to use hand gestures (studies show that complex thinkers use more hand gestures). Just don’t overdo it. The camera is a microscope. It amplifies everything.
Webcams are typically small cameras that sit on a desk, attach to a user’s monitor, or are built into the hardware. Webcams can be used during a video chat session involving two or more people, with conversations that include live audio and video.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Webcams</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Best Feature</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Best Feature Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Razer Kiyo</td>
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<td>1920 x 1080 HD</td>
<td>Built in lighting</td>
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<td>Logitech C920 / C920S / C930e</td>
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<td>720</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Please no ‘up the nostrils’ shots (always check camera angle)

Contact the Justin Smith at the New Media Center to assist in setup, editing and media related questions

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