

# Tips for Creating Videos

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Creating videos is not difficult once you have the tools in place. There are some things to keep in mind, however, that will help your video be even better.

## Video length

When you begin using videos as part of your instruction, keep it short and sweet. Videos for instruction should be less than 10 minutes in length. If you have more to say or do in a video, then “chunk” it up. Divide the relevant material into several videos, if you need to. This will hold the students’ attention.

## Do something

Don’t just put videos out there. Provide some kind of activity to follow the video. Some ideas:

- questions for the student to respond to
- write in a blog
- students create questions based on the video, type them and share digitally
- students do/make something based on video instructions.

Choose something that will be appropriate for your content and your students and your goals. This helps to hold students accountable and helps you know what they gleaned from the video as well.

## ADA regulations

Remember that your videos need to be accessible. For example, provide a transcript for students who are hearing impaired. Alternatively, you can add captions to the videos. Be sure videos have ample description for students who are visually impaired. Many visually impaired individuals use a screen reader, be sure your documents are formatted to allow the student full access to everything – including images embedded within the text (use alt text for descriptions).

## **Storing videos**

There are many ways to do this. We have an account with Viddler for the purpose of storing videos. You can then embed the videos into a wiki or in Angel. The only exception to this is if you are creating a video in Camtasia that uses the Quiz feature. For this you can use Screencast.com through Camtasia. This is the beauty of using internet – students can access your videos wherever they are, as long as they have internet access.

## **Recording**

- Before recording, have a script ready. This makes it easier to record and avoids the dreaded “um” and long silences if you lose your train of thought.
- Make sure your microphone is in good working order. Check the volume.
- Record in a quiet place – let others know you are recording and ask them to NOT knock or otherwise interfere
- Good news: you can edit things out of the video if you do lose your place and have long silences or someone bursts in and starts talking.
- Speak clearly and do not rush your words.
- Practice the script ahead of time. If you are creating a screencast, go through the steps a few times to be sure you have not left anything out.

## **Remember**

Lack of a desktop computer no longer means there is no internet access. Today we can access the internet via laptop, tablet, and smart phone. There was a time when I was teaching that I had to conduct a survey to see who had access to the internet. Today, I have to see who does not – that is a much shorter list. So do not use lack of a computer as an excuse to avoid using these tools. If you do have students without any type of device that will access the internet, there is internet access at school. Make some time and place available for students to use the computers at school to access the learning materials you have created.