## Video Best Practices

A well executed video lecture can increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes.

## Lighting Best Practices & Tips

Try to find a well lit place to record your lecture. Some webcams come with software to alter the colors. There are also third party solutions that allow you to manipulate the colors on your webcam.

## Sound Best Practices & Tips

Make sure to record a test version of your lecture a few seconds to make sure the sound works, and to check for any potential problems. You can always go into your computer's system settings to increase the volume of your microphone. Most importantly, make sure to mute whatever device you're recording on (be it a computer or mobile device) so that the notification sounds don't interrupt your recording.

Make sure to silence anything in the vicinity that can make unexpected noise, such as cell phones (even vibrating can be heard on recordings), air conditioners, appliances, and anybody around you. If you're recording behind closed doors, you may consider putting a sign on the door asking people to refrain from knocking.

Some people have a tendency to switch to a monotone voice when recording and forget that they're still addressing all their students. A simple way to make a video lecture more engaging is to change you vocal inflections every now and again to signal changes between sections. Try to do your videos with the same enthusiasm as you would an in person lecture.

*For more information, please see these resources:*
- [Capturing Good Sound](#)
- [External Microphones](#)

## Script/Outline/Rehearsal Tips

Effective videos usually involve prior planning. In order to cover as much material as possible in the shortest amount of time, try composing an outline or script of what you'd like to cover. It's also a good idea to rehearse a few times in front of the camera to eliminate filler words, such as "um." The more prepared you are before the video, the more confident you'll appear during the video.

If, during rehearsals, you find that you keep floundering at a certain point, it's often best to just rework that section to eliminate any confusion. The goal is for the whole presentation to flow and have smooth transitions between each thought.

## Length

In practice, videos should not exceed 15 to 20 minutes. Studies have shown that, as videos get longer, students are less likely to watch the whole thing and instead skim the video for highlights.