

# Tips for recording video lectures

## WHAT IS THIS RESOURCE?

Recommendations for faculty who wish to create instructional videos for use in their courses, oriented toward faculty with little or no experience in video creation. Tips include both important considerations for visual support materials and advice about recording your speaking voice. Also includes a list of digital tools for video creation.

## HOW DO I USE IT?

Before recording course videos or creating the visual support materials, review the recommendations. For assistance, please [contact CET](http://cet.usc.edu/).

Content, visuals, and audio are the three main things to consider when creating quality video lectures for your courses. Below are recommendations that apply for any video-creation hardware or software used. For support, training, or license information on your program’s specific hardware or software, please contact your department’s IT coordinator. If your program does not provide video recording hardware or software, see the suggested tool options on the back of this handout.

Table 1 Tips for recording video lectures

| **Feature** | **Recommended Practices** |
| --- | --- |
| **Content** | • Use one thought/idea/example per slide. • Break up slides with pauses for comprehension checks like quizzes.• Cut a long video into shorter videos, no longer than 10 minutes. Shorter is better.• Use video lectures for content such as theories and vocabulary. Save applications and abstract concepts for the classroom. |
| **Visuals** | • Include more images than text when possible.• Give enough time for students to read text on the screen.• Choose clean and simple over flashy.• Keep consistent font, sizes, colors, and imagery throughout.• Avoid non-standard fonts.• Avoid light-colored text on light backgrounds.• Avoid extraneous words, pictures, and sounds.• Include pictures that aid in understanding the content. |
| **Audio** | • Speak about 6 inches from the microphone• Watch your popping “p”s (this pronunciation tends to making a popping sound).• Avoid speaking over text or reading the text written on the slide.• Don’t slow your normal speaking voice. Students can pause and re-watch if it’s too fast.• Don’t raise the volume of your normal speaking voice. Students can adjust audio to their comfort.• Speak with a friendly, conversational style.• Remember most people hate their voice, but it’s not that bad! |

### Resources for making your own videos

**Easy and free**

* QuickTime
* PowerPoint

**Medium and free**

* Zaption
* TED Ed

**Medium and not free**

* Camtasia

**More advanced and not free**

* Articulate Storyline 2
* Adobe Captivate