

WEBCAM RECORDING TIPS

1

PRACTICE WITH YOUR TECHNOLOGY

Make sure your video and sound are working well. Do a "dry run" using the same software and hardware you will use for the video.

2

TRY TO HOLD STILL

Many webcams track the movement of the person in front of them, so be careful not to rock back and forth or twirl in your chair. This may cause the camera to constantly refocus which is distracting for the viewer.

3

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT

Don't start speaking until after you push the record button. This will avoid clipping your opening sentence. Also, wait for a moment after your final word before you stop the recording.

4

PRACTICE LOOKING INTO THE CAMERA

It's tempting to look down at your notes or at the screen, but when you are speaking, try to look into the camera as much as possible. A trick that helps is to fasten a picture of someone you are comfortable talking to behind your camera so you can talk to that person.

5

CHECK YOUR VIDEO FRAMING

Adjust the framing of your webcam. Imagine dividing your screen into thirds. Your eyes should be at the intersection of the top third.



6

AVOID WINDOWS

Make sure your camera is not pointing at a bright open window or even mini-blinds that will overpower the lens and blackout your face.



7

CHECK YOUR VIDEO BACKGROUND

It's OK if your computer is in your office, classroom or home, but make sure the background is not cluttered or distracting. Avoid having a plant or a piece of furniture directly behind you to avoid the impression of something growing out of your head.



8

CHECK THE ANGLE OF YOUR CAMERA

Make sure your camera is not too low. Try to avoid looking down into the lens as it will make you look ominous (the Darth Vader effect)



9

CHECK YOUR VIDEO LIGHTING

There's no need for special lighting but ensure that you have adequate lighting in the room for your face. No one looks great under florescent lighting but it is sufficient for these videos.

10

CHECK YOUR AUDIO BACKGROUND

Put the dog in the yard and ask the kids to play quietly while you are recording. Be sure to turn off your cell phone and close your email program to avoid disruptive alerts. If possible turn off any equipment, appliances, air conditioning, radio or tvs that produce background sound.

11

RELAX

Don't put too much pressure on yourself. No one expects professional, studio quality video and audio but with a little planning and preparation you will be able to create quality videos that help your students in their learning.

For more information on preparing your webcam recording, contact CITL's Client Support Team

citl.mun.ca/support



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