

Tips and Tools for Teaching Remotely

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Tips for Giving Recorded Video Instruction

Just like with live instruction, try to put your face in the video. Tools like Screencastify and Screencast-o-matic let you record while keeping your webcam on. Your face will appear in the video in a small box in one of the corners of your video.

Strive for short and sweet. Two five minute videos are more likely to be watched all the way through by your students than one ten minute video is. The exception is if you're really comfortable on camera and really good at engaging people through video.

Keep the screen active. An easy way to create a video lesson is to record a screencast of your slides. That's also an easy way to bore the heck out of your students if you don't keep the screen active (I learned that lesson the hard way about 12 years ago). Add in more transitions and animations than you normally use in your slides. Or if that seems like too much work then try the approach of my friend Tom Richey. Tom splits the screen between him and his slides so that something is always happening on the screen. [Here's one of Tom's recent videos](https://youtu.be/IK728n3-aYU) (<https://youtu.be/IK728n3-aYU>).

Tools for Hosting Live Online Instruction

In response to the spread of COVID-19 Google has [increased the capabilities of Hangouts Meet for G Suite for Education users](http://bitly.com/3aHrH9J) (<http://bitly.com/3aHrH9J>). You can now host up to 250 people in a Hangout. You can also now record your Hangout and save it to Google Drive where you can then share it through Google Classroom. [Here](https://www.freetech4teachers.com/2020/03/how-to-schedule-host-and-customize.html) are instructions for hosting Google Hangouts Meet events: <https://www.freetech4teachers.com/2020/03/how-to-schedule-host-and-customize.html>

Microsoft has also responded to the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on schools and businesses by increasing the availability of Microsoft Teams. Earlier today Microsoft hosted a series of webinars about teachM

If you're a Mac or iPad user, now is the time to familiarize yourself with the basics