

# Key Strategies for Enhancing Remote Instruction

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## AUDIO & VISUAL

Presenting yourself in the learning environment is very important to how you are perceived by learners. This does not change when engaging with learners remotely.

The most common reason learners' stop listening or viewing content online is due to poor quality audio or visual.

In an academic environment, video/audio content may also be evaluated, relative to course content.

### Improve the Audio & Visual Quality of Your Content:

#### 1. Enhance Audio Quality:

- ✓ **Good:** Blue snowball USB microphone (<https://www.bluedesigns.com/products/snowball/>)
- ✓ **Better:** Blue yeti USB microphone (<https://www.bluedesigns.com/products/yeti/>)
- ✓ **Best:** Any good XLR Cardioid microphone with a USB audio interface



#### 2. Improve Video Quality:

- ✓ **Good:** Entry-level upgrade to your laptop camera — Logitech C920 HD Pro 1080p webcam (<https://www.logitech.com/en-us/product/hd-pro-webcam-c920>)
- ✓ **Better:** Logitech Brio 4K webcam - (<https://www.logitech.com/en-us/product/brio>)



#### 3. Achieve Better Lighting:

- ✓ **Good:** Place your computer or other device 15-45 degrees to the right or left of the window or natural light
- ✓ **Better:** Neewer 176 LED light (<https://neewer.com/products/on-camera-led-lights10089503>)
- ✓ **Best:** Three-point lighting system or wide LED light mat (<https://www.amazon.com/Andoer-Max-8000LM-Flexible-Handheld-Photography/dp/B01MTYAJIB>)



## SIMPLICITY

Streamlining your content maximizes your learners' ability to quickly access and use your materials.



Additionally, simplicity enhances retention by decreasing cognitive load.

### Simplify Your Content:

1. Remove unnecessary content (i.e. “navigational clutter”) from your Learning Management System (LMS) site (e.g. Canvas).
  - ✓ Makes the LMS more user- and device-friendly.
  - ✓ Minimizes student distraction and helps them focus on the course materials.
2. Limit the amount of content used per slide.
3. Share only a single window, or open fewer windows, when your screen is shared.
4. Seek unbiased observer feedback about your content from a family member, colleague, or friend.
5. Provide a video to explain complicated instructions (e.g. how to submit online assignments).
6. Use the rubric to provide transparency in expectations for assessment.
  - ✓ Additionally, rubrics can be used to increase the speed and reproducibility of grading.

## FAMILIARITY

Becoming familiar with the LMS will improve your ability to deliver content remotely.



### Become Familiar with Your LMS:

1. Allow at least a week to fully familiarize yourself with your course LMS page.
2. Personally test your material before you upload it to the LMS.
3. Create an introductory video as a low stakes exercise to ease into using the technology.
  - ✓ This video can describe you as a professional and as a person.
  - ✓ Invite your students to also create a video.

## ACCESSIBILITY & STUDENT-CENTERED

Remember that when and how students will access course content will vary.



Providing additional modes for accessing your course materials will increase opportunities for learners to digest the content.

### Make Your Content More Accessible and Student-Centered:

1. Create an MP3 version of your audio-based content.
  - ✓ This allows for multi-tasking consumption of your lesson (e.g. listening while exercising, driving, doing chores, etc.).
2. Record and convert your sessions into YouTube videos.
3. Add a copy of any static images used in your presentation as a standalone supplement.

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To watch video examples of the suggestions above, please visit Marcus' Effective Remote Teaching YouTube channel.