

Smile for the Camera: Performing your Video Lectures

Hi. I'm Micah and I'm here to give you some tips for performing your video lectures. It can take even the most practiced instructor some time to get comfortable with lecturing on camera. Most of us tend to feel a bit...uncomfortable when we see ourselves on camera. It can seem like videos highlight the least flattering aspects of how we look and sound, but that doesn't have to be the case. With these tips you'll be confident in front of the camera in no time.

Practice Makes Perfect - Before making your videos available to your students, you should take some time to rehearse your presentation. One effective way to rehearse is to make recordings of yourself reading your script. This will give you the opportunity to critique your performance and make whatever adjustments are necessary to ensure that your video communicates effectively to your students. As you watch your practice video, there are a few things that you should pay attention to:

Diction

- First, let's talk about diction – Are you speaking clearly and are the beginnings and endings of your words crisp and distinct? If your speech isn't quite clear, you can try exercises like this tongue twister to improve your pronunciation: "Can I cook a proper cup of coffee in a copper coffee pot." "Yoda met a Yeti on the Plains of Serengeti."

Pitch

- Next up is your pitch – This is how *high* and -low- your voice goes. Find the pitch range that is the most natural for you and move your voice up and down that range to make your speech more expressive.

Volume

- You should also pay attention to your Volume – You want to be loud enough to be heard, but you don't want to send your viewers scrambling to turn the volume down (or up if you're too quiet). Consider how near or far you are to your camera and adjust your volume accordingly. If your voice is naturally quiet, consider using a microphone to make sure that your voice will be picked up.

Pacing

- Consider your pace – If you speak too slowly, your viewers might find your videos boring. If you speak too fast, your viewers won't be able to understand you. Make sure you breathe as you speak, and try not to rush.

Tone

· Now let's talk about your tone of voice – Your tone reveals your attitudes about the words that you're saying. If you sound bored about your topic, it will be difficult for your students to stay engaged so try to sound excited and interested in your content.

Don't forget to smile!

· Lastly, it's very important that you remember to smile. Not only will your smile help you to come across as warm and approachable on video, it will also put both you and your viewers at ease.