

The Modern Classrooms Project: Blended Instruction Guide

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Objective 1: Effective, Efficient Instructional Videos

I can record an instructional video that effectively and efficiently explains a given learning objective.

Teachers in Modern Classrooms make instruction more efficient and more effective through the use of instructional videos. This short [introduction](#) explains how videos can be used in a Modern Classroom.

There are two steps to creating a high-quality instructional video. First, you need to plan the video. Then you need to record it.

★ **Step 1: Video Planning.** To make a great instructional video, follow [research-backed best practices](#). If you need more support building the slides decks for your video, check out this [Slide Development Template](#):

- **Keep it short:** Engagement drops dramatically for videos longer than 6 minutes. Be concise.
- **Use visuals:** Images and on-screen writing catch student attention. Avoid text where possible.
- **Be enthusiastic:** Speak quickly and with high energy. Don't bore your students.
- **Be yourself:** Students know you, and they want to hear your unique voice. Let your personality shine through the screen.
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★ **Step 2: Video Recording.** We recommend that you create a **screencast video**, which shows the screen of your iPad or computer as you talk over it. ([Exemplar here.](#))

There are lots of recording tools out there. We recommend:

Advanced (Recommended)	Basic Screencasting
The best instructional videos are built using an iPad and Apple Pencil with Explain Everything , an interactive white board!!! Here is our step by step guide on how to use it: TUTORIAL .	For simple screen recording on a computer, Screencast-o-Matic . Here is a nice tutorial video . For people using chromebooks: Use Screencastify . If you have an iPad/iPhone with iOS 11, you can also record your screen directly .

Our rubric for instructional videos is below:

<i>Objective</i>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory
I: Effective, Efficient Instructional Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Video under 6 minutes● Compelling visuals● Minimal text● Enthusiastic, inspiring tone● Highly personal style	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Video under 9 minutes● Strong visuals● Little text● Enthusiastic tone● Personal style	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Video under 12 minutes● Clear visuals● Some text● Engaging tone● Conversational style

Objective 2: Embedded Questions / Guided Notes

I can write embedded questions and/or guided notes that highlight major take-aways from a given instructional video.

Research shows that two simple strategies can increase student engagement with instructional videos. Those strategies are:

- ★ **Embedded Questions.** With [Edpuzzle](#), you can [upload your videos](#) and [embed questions and comments](#) at key points in the video. We recommend that you use **closed-response** (multiple-choice) questions so that students get immediate feedback on their responses. Here is a [tutorial on how to use Edpuzzle](#)

Edpuzzle also allows you to [create classes](#) and [monitor student engagement](#). It's an amazing tool!

- ★ **Guided Notes.** As your students watch your videos, they should take notes on key content -- just as they would for a typical lecture. For many students, having guided notes templates (see [exemplar units](#)) or another note-taking strategy (such as [Cornell notes](#)) can be extremely helpful.

You can even combine these strategies by reminding students, with Edpuzzle comments, to take notes!

Our rubric for video engagement strategies is below:

<i>Objective</i>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory
2: Embedded Questions / Guiding Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear, concise, visually appealing notes template● Thought-provoking, closed-response embedded questions● All important points clearly highlighted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear, concise notes template● Engaging, closed-response embedded questions● All important points highlighted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear notes template● Closed-response embedded questions● Important points highlighted

Objective 3: Learning Management System

I can present videos, notes, and other student-facing materials in a clear and well-organized learning management system.

Your Learning Management System (LMS) is the place where students access all assignments, instructional videos, etc. It should be well-organized, so that students can easily find what they need.

There are many LMS options out there -- Blackboard, Canvas, Classcraft, Moodle, etc. -- and **we generally recommend that you use whichever one your school or district already has in place.** Most LMS providers have extensive online guidance on how to use their various features, and we are happy to help you work through the process of putting your course online.

If for some reason you prefer not to use your school's LMS, you can follow our [exemplars](#) and create a [Google Site](#). These are free, easy to use, and can be shared in perpetuity with people outside your school. If you like, we're also happy to help you master Google Sites.

Whatever LMS you use, there are a few general principles to keep in mind:

- ★ **Keep things organized.** Make it clear to students -- and yourself! -- where they can find the resources and assignments they need.
- ★ **Follow a progression.** Students should move fluidly from one task/lesson to another. The more apparent this path is, the better.
- ★ **Be patient!** No matter how good you are, your students will take time to get used to a new system. Think ahead about how you'll present your LMS to your classes at the start of the year, and prepare to keep supporting students as they master it.

Our rubric for learning management systems is below:

<i>Objective</i>	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory
3: Learning Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Obvious, visually appealing organization of lesson materials● Foolproof progression through lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Obvious organization of lesson materials● Easy-to-follow progression through lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear organization of lesson materials● Logical progression through lessons