



How to create a video with a laptop, desktop or tablet.

CONTENT

Plan ahead-What lessons translate well into video.

Make it personal-Connect with your students

Keep it short-Four to six minutes

One idea per video-Easier to find the specific content

End with action-Now that you learned this, do this. You send them information, they use it.

FRAMING THE SHOT:

Make sure your desktop/tablet/laptop/smartphone is in a fixed position. It shouldn't move.

Make sure your eyes are in line with the camera on the device. The simple rule is don't look down or up to the lens. You're having a conversation with someone. Meet them eye to eye.



You may have to place a cardboard box or some books under the device.

If you're using a smart phone always shoot in a landscape or horizontal position. This way you and anything you want to show fits in the screen and when the video is played on a computer it/you fill the screen.

If your device is too far away you'll have too much head room and you'll look small in the frame. Remember you need to be the most predominant thing in the lens. So bring the device closer to you, about arms length away. That way you'll get great audio. And remember to record in a quiet room.



THE BACKGROUND:

If you're using a desktop there's a good chance you can't move it easily. So don't, it will be fine. But think about the stuff behind you. Maybe you're viewer's eyes will wander and not pay attention to what you're talking about. So maybe a little straightening is in order.

If all you have is a blank wall that's fine as long as it's light colored. As you begin to experiment you can add more items from your home so people know more about you.

Most importantly, a window behind you or in any part of the frame will cause a hot spot and the camera lens will begin to close. So avoid windows.

LIGHTING:

Finally, lighting is the trickiest part, well, maybe not. All you need to do is make sure there's a light source behind and above your camera, shining on your face to eliminate shadows and to separate you from the background. You don't need a strong spotlight. Something soft will do just fine.



Some of my favorite locations are the dining room or kitchen table. I bet you have a light above each of those at your place.



Lamps work well also. Just remember to remove the shade, use a frosted bulb or two and keep it close. If you have a desk/table by a window you could use the outdoor light source as long as its not direct sunlight.

Your home has lots of locations and you'll look great. Just keep these tips in mind. Remember to record several versions of your video, then pick the best cut to use.

If you'd like to share ideas or video visit "AMS Connect" in the teachers section of your AMS account. For more resources visit: <https://amshq.org/COVID19>

