

Creating Videos to Model and Explain Processes

Modeling desired actions and behaviors is a useful tool in the instructor's toolbox. Research has found that modeling a process decreases student error and that students place greater importance on modeled tasks (Salisu & Ransom, 2014). When teaching students processes or task-based information, consider recording a video in which you model and discuss the steps. This way, students can return to the video if they need more guidance when following the steps on their own, and the video can be stopped and restarted or simply revisited as often as needed.

Designing the Instructional Video

It can be helpful to provide a video recording of you offering a detailed explanation of both the purpose of an assignment or activity and the steps required to complete it. Remember to relate the task to the current course module and, when appropriate, career goals. This is also your opportunity to elaborate on each step or a particularly complex step by including reasons for taking the steps, providing hints for accomplishing them, and pointing out possible missteps.

The process can be simplified to the format outlined in the steps below (Darby & Lang, 2019, p. 17):

1. This is what I want you to do.
2. This is why I want you to do it.
3. This is how to do it step-by-step.

For example, if you are teaching students to record their own video, your instructional video can follow the format below:

1. I want you to create a video just like the one you are watching now and similar to the introduction video you made at the start of the semester. It will be an instructional video on the process of your choice and should follow the format of explaining what, why, and how.
2. I have created this assignment because developing instructional videos draws on skills that you are going to need in future courses as well as in your professional career. Additionally, teaching a process or concept to others is an excellent way for you to learn that content more deeply.
3. Start by choosing one of the processes listed for this assignment.
4. Unlike for the introduction video, you will need to create an outline for this instructional video that includes the following information: (a) begin by explaining what you want the audience to do; (b) explain how the activity will be beneficial to them for the course, future courses, or in their professional lives; and (c) tell them how to do each step.
5. Look at the steps you have written to be sure they are clear and focused on one action at a time.
6. Determine if any of the steps are confusing and might need extra explanations or hints to complete and add that information to the step description.
7. Use the outline to guide the video of you modeling the process and offering additional explanations for the steps that are more complex.

Sources

Darby, F. (with Lang, J. M.). (2019). *Small teaching online: Applying learning science in online classes*. Jossey-Bass.

Salisu, A., & Ransom, E. N. (2014). The role of modeling towards impacting quality education. *International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences*, 32, 54–61.