

Whiteboard Lectures Online

Even with all the new technologies available to instructors, sometimes the best option is still a good, old-fashioned chalkboard or whiteboard for writing, drawing, and annotating while you teach. This guide begins with best practices to consider while you plan your whiteboard lectures for your online course. Then, a variety recording tool options are presented.

Best Practices for Online Lectures

These best practices, adapted from the [Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching](#), will help you plan and create excellent videos for your online course.

- **Make a plan:** Planning is crucial part of lecturing online. Create an outline for your lecture. What will you present and how will you frame it?
- **Chunk content:** Focus on the learning outcomes for your lecture. What should students know or be able to do when they are done watching your video?
- **Keep videos short:** Research shows that attention to videos drops after 6 minutes in length. Keep your recorded lectures to 6-9 minutes maximum. The Teach Anywhere Website has a guide to micro-lecturing, including the why and how of short lectures.
- **Consider cognitive load:** Be sure to consider how much cognitive work students are doing when they are watching your lectures. The best way to take this into consideration is to keep videos simple, with short key phrases and simple images. Make sure your speaking is related to the image or text on the screen.
- **Use signaling to highlight key information:** Include keywords or phrases on slides as you lecture to signal to students that a particular concept is important. You can also signal importance by circling or highlighting a specific phrase or part of an image.
- **Provide guiding questions:** Frame your videos with guiding questions. For example, create a Page in Canvas with guiding questions and embed the video below it. This lowers cognitive load by helping students focus on the most pertinent information.
- **Practice using a conversation, enthusiastic style:** Speak like you would during your normal face-to-face lecture but add a little more enthusiasm! Keep your tone light and conversational.
- **Use captions and/or transcripts:** Captions and transcripts are key for creating content that is accessible to students with a variety of needs. While many students with disabilities can particularly benefit from captioning, [studies show that 71% of college students use captions](#) at least sometimes when watching videos for their courses, mainly to help with comprehension.

Whiteboard Options

The following are options for creating whiteboard lectures for your online course. The column on the left describes the technologies you can consider. The middle column describes the best uses for that particular tool and the right column describes the hardware and software needed to use this given solution.

Once you've created your recording, we recommend uploading your file to Microsoft Stream or YouTube. Microsoft Stream is Wayne State supported. See the Teach Anywhere website for information on using Microsoft Stream.



Technology	Uses	Requirements
Record yourself at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate printed images • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any device with recording capabilities • Paper/whiteboard • Marker
Record in BigBlueButton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images/slides on uploaded PDF • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas course • Laptop/desktop • Touchscreen and stylus (optional)
Explain Everything	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple/Android tablet or computer • Touchscreen and stylus (optional)
Record in PowerPoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images / slides • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC only, Office 365 online • Laptop / desktop • Touchscreen and stylus (for best results)
Microsoft Whiteboard with Echo360/Zoom to record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images / slides (Whiteboard app only) • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 Online, PC, Mac • Echo360 Software/Zoom • Laptop/desktop • Touchscreen and stylus (optional)
PowerPoint/Microsoft Whiteboard with QuickTime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images/slides (Whiteboard app only) • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiteboard tool of choice • QuickTime (Mac only) • Laptop/desktop • Touchscreen and stylus (optional)
PowerPoint/Microsoft Whiteboard with Windows Game Bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotate images/slides (Whiteboard app only) • Draw images • Solve equations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiteboard tool of choice • Windows Game Bar (press Windows key + G) (PC only) • Laptop/desktop • Touchscreen and stylus (optional)

Note: Zoom and Explain Everything are not official Wayne State supported tools.



Select Further Resources

- [Office for Teaching and Learning Teach Anywhere Website](#)
- Brame, C.J. (2015). [Effective educational videos](#).
- Inman, J., & Myers, S. (2018). [Now Streaming: Strategies That Improve Video Lectures](#).
IDEA Paper# 68. *IDEA Center, Inc.*

