Best Practices: Make good use of your own videos

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With tools from UDIT, you can create your own videos quickly and easily. With our recent enhancements to UD Capture, you now have access to a rich toolset right inside Canvas.

1. **UD Capture My Media**: Your personal video collection inside Canvas. View, organize, tag, edit, and upload your videos.
2. **UD Capture Media Gallery**: Share videos with your students in Canvas quickly and easily.
3. **UD Capture Classroom**: Request to have your entire semester of classes to be recorded automatically.
4. **UD Capture Personal Capture**: Create a screen movie on your computer easily. Add your webcam simultaneously.
5. **UD Capture Studios**: Self service video studios to privately record clips for your course. Use a document camera to show handwriting or pages from books.
6. **UD Capture Space**: Share videos with students or the world by creating your own channel of content.

Tips for making great videos:

1. **Keep it short**: Attention spans of students can be short so it’s best to keep your videos brief. Studies show, and our analytics confirm it, that most people stop watching after less than five minutes.
2. **Plan it**: Videos are most effective if they are engaging, well rehearsed, and brief. Think lighting, camera angle, ambient noises, etc. TED talks are a good example.
3. **Need more time?** If you have a longer video, it’s a good idea to break it up into shorter segments and embed assessments or other activities in between.
4. **Shelf life**: Consider how long you’ll use this video for. If you’ll use it for multiple sessions, consider spending more time to create it.
5. **Context**: Add context to videos by using them in Canvas modules and coupling with readings, assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc.

Make effective use of these tools to make the best use of your videos:

1. **Course Introduction**: Record an introduction to the course that gives a brief big picture and how it fits with their other studies.
2. **Instructor Welcome Message**: Introduce yourself to your students with an "About your instructor" page in your course. This is especially nice in a fully online course, to help it feel more personal.
3. **Weekly Recap**: Provide a review of the most important point(s) covered in the last week that students will be tested on.
4. **Prerequisite Material**: Provide a detailed video on a difficult topic that many students find confusing. Build a library of clips and share with others in your department to reuse.
5. **Case Studies/Scenarios**: Show students videos that you’d like them to comment on, as a prompt for discussion.
6. **Sample Problems**: Work through some sample problems step by step.
7. **PowerPoint Annotation**: Use UD Capture Personal Capture to record a voice annotation of your PowerPoint slides.
8. **Guest Speaker**: Use UD Capture or Zoom to record guest lectures by invited speakers and create an archive for later use.
9. **Examples**: Share the work of a past student (with permission) to give an example of an exemplary effort.
10. **Lecture Capture**: Best for students who miss class or review. Because raw footage can be long and non-interactive, it’s best to edit down to smaller concepts to use later.

Original source from Larry MacPhee, Director, e-Learning, NAU Online, Northern Arizona University. Used and updated with permission.

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