

Welcome to the Teaching and Tools podcast brought to you by eLearning at Everett Community College. I'm Instructional Designer Derek Jorgenson, here to provide you a condensed version of an in-person workshop on the topic of Uploading an Introduction Video to Canvas offered on campus Wednesday, March 15.

Adding a short video of yourself to a Canvas page is a simple, accessible way of embedding a strong online presence. Rather than relying on text or images only, you can infuse your page with your personality. Think about how meaningful that can be for those who interact with you through Canvas who may never encounter you in person. A video can capture your presence and humanize both you and your class.

For me, a video introduction is an opportunity to expose people to my sense of humor. As a matter of disclosure, I find myself extremely funny, and I'm always amusing myself with my wit, and sometimes other people appreciate it, too. A half-minute video can capture how quick I am to smile and chuckle. Words alone don't easily embody the same message. A video can also reveal different locations that are interesting and meaningful. If you record yourself in your office, other people can see you in your work habitat. The imagery is strong. You can also think about recording yourself in different locations to reveal other aspects of who you are and where you choose to spend your time. It might not be the primary intent of an introductory video, but it is no less revealing and meaningful.

The steps to record and upload a video using a smartphone are easy. I've created an eight step instruction guide to walk you through the process, although honestly it doesn't usually require all eight steps. There are other ways to accomplish the same end goal, but this is an all-inclusive method that doesn't require devices other than your phone. You can download a detailed handout from the Center for Transformative Teaching Blog if you'd like. Here's a quick overview of the steps to recording and posting a video to Canvas:

1. Use your phone's camera to record a short video.
2. Record a couple takes until you are satisfied with your work.

3. Decide which version you want to use.
4. Open your phone's browser and navigate to your Canvas course and the Page on which you want it to appear.
5. Choose the **Edit** option on the page.
6. Place the cursor where you want the video to appear and click on the **media button** (it looks like a movie frame).
7. Click on the **Upload Media** tab, then choose your file from your phone.
8. When the upload is complete, **Save** your changes to the Canvas page.

That's the entire process in eight steps! It's truly an easy, worthwhile activity. Just a little bit of effort invested has significant returns when you consider the level of engagement and the connection that can stem from a brief video.

You aren't limited to just one video, either. You could create weekly messages that summarize upcoming projects and deadlines, notes to encourage others during midterms and finals, or almost anything else. Be creative, and most importantly, let your personality shine. Videos can serve as a humanizing bridge when the face to face interactions are absent.

That wraps up this installment of Teaching and Tools, brought to you by the eLearning department of Everett Community College. Thanks for listening! Check out the eLearning webpage at www.everettcc.edu/elearning for more information, including a list of upcoming workshops. The Center for Transformative Teaching Blog also offers a wealth of information; check it out at ctt.evccblogs.com. I'm Derek Jorgenson, your Instructional Designer. Until next time – onward!