

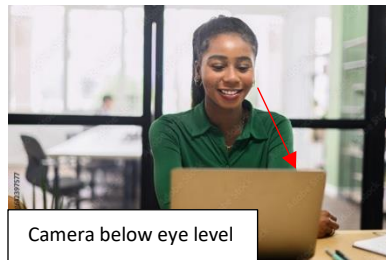


6 Quick Tips for the Best DIY Filming Setup

What to Know BEFORE you Start

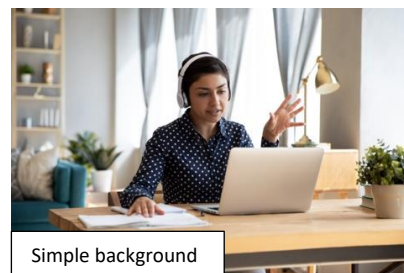
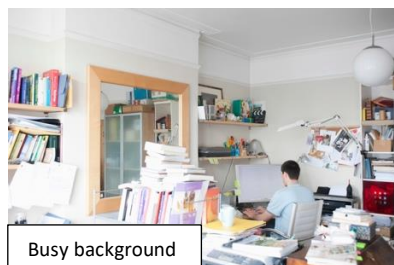
1. Position your Camera at Eye Level

- You'll want your camera to be as close to your eyeline as possible. This will help give you and your video a flattering and professional look.
- Look directly into the lens of your camera. This creates a more personable connection with you and your students. This helps them feel as if you are speaking directly to them.
- If you are using a laptop computer, you can add a few books under the computer to help raise the camera up and in line with your eyeline. If you are in a studio and can adjust the camera height, try to raise or lower the camera or tripod so the lens of the camera is in line with your eyeline.



2. Choose your Recording Location

- You'll want to choose a room to record in that is as quiet as possible. Try to avoid having any extra noise such as other voices, pets or outside sounds in the background.
- When you look at your framing take note of what objects are behind you or in the frame with you. Try to keep your background simple with only a few objects or pieces of furniture in view. **NOTE:** Avoid objects directly behind you that may stick out above your head. Also, try to avoid "busy" locations that have a lot of items that will be in frame with you. This can distract the viewer from the content of your video.

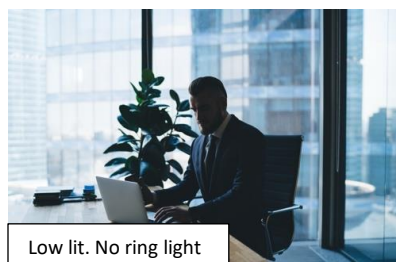


3. Lighting

- Lighting is an important element to help create a professional look to your videos. You want to try and be in a well-lit room and have even lighting across your face. **NOTE:** Avoid positioning yourself with a window or bright light directly behind you. This will create harsh backlighting and cause your face to look much darker and underlit.



- b. A simple and effective trick is to use a ring light on your computer. This will help to give even lighting across your face. Check with your teaching center or department to see if lighting resources are available for use. You can also purchase one on Amazon or most big-box stores. Many, such as [this ring light available on Amazon](#), have settings to adjust color temperature and brightness.



Low lit. No ring light



Front lit with ring light

4. Audio

- a. Audio is one of the most important elements to creating effective video content. While some work can be done in post-production (editing) to fix poor video, it's very difficult to create effective video content that has poorly recorded audio.
- b. In many cases, the built-in microphone on your computer may not be the best option for recording audio, especially if you are far away from the microphone and/or are recording in a noisy environment. Using a directional microphone or a microphone that is physically close to you can help improve your audio.
- c. We recommend using a "lavalier" or "tie-clip" mic or a headset with built-in microphone. Make sure you look for those that will interface with your computer (such as via a USB port); Here are examples of a reasonably priced USB [lavalier mic](#) and a USB [headset](#). Check with your teaching center or department to see if microphone resources are available for use.

5. What to Wear

- a. When recording your video it is best practice to wear solid colors. Blue, red or light brown shades are most commonly used and look the best when recording video.
- b. Note: Try to avoid wearing clothing that is very bright or has tight or small patterns, especially stripes or polka dots. This can create a moiré effect and be distracting for the viewer.

6. Framing

- a. You want your framing to be about from the shoulders/ chest up.
- b. Now, position yourself in the center of your screen. If you have too much room above your head, your framing will be too low.



Center framing



Low framing