Webcam Video Tips

1. Set the stage

- You should be just as concerned with what students see in the background as the foreground.
- You should record your video in an attractive, comfortable, and professional setting. Does it have to be in your office? Not necessarily, but the location should not take away from the message.
- Keep the background simple, tidy, and pleasing. Be wary of stray or unidentifiable items in the background.

2. Frame the shot

- Make sure you're close enough to the camera–your head and mid-to-upper torso should be visible, but not much else.
- Try to avoid too much "dead space" above your head.
- Your eyes should be at the approximate height of the camera to avoid a "double chin" effect or "looking up" at the viewer. Use a tripod or books to adjust the height.

3. Set your lighting

- Make sure the room has plenty of light.
- The main source of light should be illuminating your face, not the glow of your computer screen. A desk lamp aimed at your face can make a huge difference.
- Avoid bright lights or windows behind you so you are not in shadows.
- Avoid shooting in a location where it is obvious that it's nighttime.

4. Get good sound

- Your computer's built-in microphone may not provide the best quality. Because of this, make sure you use a USB microphone.
- Film in a quiet space. Outside noise can be distracting and make it hard for viewers to hear what you have to say. Find a quiet room and turn off any equipment that may create noise.
- Speak clearly!

5. Start filming!

- Look into the camera, not the computer screen.
- Feel free to move around as you naturally would when conversing. In fact, you may want to gesticulate more than you usually would–you don't want to appear stiff.
- Smile! It makes a big difference.

Let's see what happens when Tim takes some of our advice to improve the look of his video…

Before: **After:**