

Best Practices Tips Transcript

I'm Jean Kent and I mentored the faculty who participated in this Camtasia Studio Project. I asked each of them to share their tips for developing successful projects and their responses are included in this presentation. I hope you'll view each project and use them as inspiration for your own Camtasia videos.

Christopher Cary teaches math at the Community Colleges of Spokane Institute for Extended Learning. He teaches in the GED program, the college prep program, as well as for credit math classes. His Camtasia project was developed for an online for credit math class to help his students get better acquainted with MyMathLab which they use for completing their homework. Christopher's best practice tips include:

1. Talk naturally just as if you were talking in front of a class
2. Have fun and don't worry too much about what you sound like.

Jenny Houck is the college prep instructor for the Institute for Extended Learning at Spokane Community College. Her course covers English, math, college level writing, research, computer basics, and college success skills. Her Camtasia project was designed for an online college prep class to introduce her students to Angel Learning, their new course management system. Jenny's best practice tips include:

1. Rehearse your script while clicking through the screens just as you would for the actual recording. After several practice tries, Jenny worked out all the bugs and ended up with a finished project that far exceeding her expectations.
2. Print your script in a font large enough that's easy to read.

Don Humphrey teaches for the computer science department at Columbia Basin College. His courses include networking, computer hardware, Unix, and intro to microcomputers. His Camtasia project was a tutorial on making DOS batch files. Don's best practice tips include:

1. Storyboarding was the most important part of making a Camtasia video.
2. Determine what media will best convey parts of your lesson.

Ann Levine teaches at Seattle Central Community College in the Basic and Transitional Studies program. In 14 years, she's taught all different levels of ESL including Developmental English. Her recent teaching has focused on transitional students many of whom are new to using the Web. The purpose of her Camtasia project was give students a tour of her web site. Her best practice tips are:

1. Make sure to coordinate the visuals with the audio.
2. Rehearse several times, too.

Donna Maher teaches Medical Office which includes Medical Coding and billing at Renton Technical College. Her Camtasia project was to create a tutorial on completing a generic version of the universal claim form. Her best practice tip is directed at those who dislike creating storyboards.

1. Use the language toolbar in Word or Camtasia to convert your voice or thinking into text.

Michelle Marshman teaches history at Green River Community College. Her courses include world civilization, ancient and modern world civ as well as women's and gender history. Her Camtasia project focused on a complicated assignment – unpacking patterns of ancient urbanization. Her best practices tips include:

1. Balancing clarity and simplicity of slides with visual interest.
2. The Zoom and Pan and callout features of Camtasia were especially useful when analyzing images and maps.

Dr. Polly McMahon teaches in the Human Services Department at Spokane Falls Community College. Her areas of specialization include psychology, social services, and gerontology. Her project was developed for a class on multicultural perspectives of human services to expand students understanding of family. Her best practice tips include:

1. Use the background noise filter so you end up with a more professional sound recording.
2. Have patience while learning Camtasia and try different approaches to see what works best for your project.

Diana Ottman instructs in and coordinates 19 hybrid courses ranging from IT applications to business and professional communications. Her Camtasia project was a three part series on the Windows Operating System - screen and elements. Part 1 was Getting Started, Part 2 was Learning about Folders and Files, and Part 3 was Describing Hardware Devices. Here best practices tips include:

1. Create a storyboard using Inspiration, Word, Excel, or PowerPoint to see a visual of your project components.
2. Use the speaker's notes feature of PowerPoint for your script and synchronizing your visuals and your narration.

Kathie Richer teaches computer fundamentals and Microsoft Office applications at Edmonds Community College in the Business Information Technology Department. Her Camtasia project was for her computer fundamentals course. It demonstrates how to add a background image to a HTML document. Her best practices tips include:

1. First open all the windows and files you'll be recording.
2. Size and stack the windows before you begin recording.
3. And, don't record in a room with a telephone that might ring while you're recording.

Annalee Rothenberg teaches accounting and business classes at Tacoma Community College. Her Camtasia project was a welcome orientation for her online classes to help students with some of the common problems encountered when taking an online class. Her best practice tip was to include captions if you have lots of non-native speakers in your classes.