

Plus One – Recording Videos of Pre-Lab Talks

Title

Recording videos of Pre-Lab Talks

Brief description

The pre-lab talk is a common component of many Science undergraduate laboratory classes. Pre-lab talks generally involve PowerPoint or are 'chalk and talk' presentations. The purpose of the pre-lab talk is to clarify objectives, highlight the concepts involved with the lab class, familiarise the students with equipment or techniques and highlight safety procedures. This is a lot of information for the students to take on board in a physical space which might have background noise and where the student may not have a clear line of sight to the instructor. This Plus One is to make a video recording of the pre-lab talk and make it available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) at least the week before the scheduled class. It is important to ask the demonstrators in the lab to also watch this video so that they are well informed of the key points that are being delivered in the lab session.

Mapping to UDL Principles

Giving the pre-lab talk as a face-to-face presentation and as asynchronous video addresses the three UDL principles of Engagement, Representation and Action & Expression as noted below; there is overlap between the ways in which this Plus One addresses these principles.



Engagement

- Helps students to anticipate the learning.
- The availability of the pre-lab talk in video format means that students can watch the video in a more comfortable setting, promoting a positive and focused learning experience. Students can watch the video more than once and have the option to watch after the lab for clarification before they create their report.
- Involving demonstrators in the process ensures that they are well-informed and can provide effective support during the lab session.



Representation

- Students are provided with two forms of representation, face-to-face and asynchronous videos.
- The physical space of a laboratory may present challenges such as background noise or limited visibility. Providing a video allows students to engage with the material in a controlled environment, reducing potential distractions and ensuring that every student has equal access to the information.



Action and Expression

- By making the video available at least a week before the scheduled class, students have the opportunity to access the information at their own pace and review it as needed.
- It allows students to prepare for the challenges in learning in the lab setting and they may then take the opportunity to ask follow-up questions and look for clarifications at the face-to-face session.

Three ways this Plus One helps students

Students can

1. access material in advance as part of preparation for class
2. access material after the lab class to gain a better understanding of the material. Some students find a concept/technique easier to understand once they have actually done the experiment
3. access the material away from the lab setting which may have physical barriers or distractions to learning.

Key considerations for enactment

Risk

Low

Time

Moderate

Technology

Standard tools: ppt, camera, video editing software



Other

It is important to ensure that the demonstrators watch the videos so that there is consistency in the material being taught across the class.

Further information

See [CAST UDL Guidelines](#) and [Maynooth University Plus One resources](#).

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