

Transcription of Tips for Making of Engaging Videos: Joseph Wirgau

Wirgau: Morning, good afternoon, wherever you may be in your day. Thank you so much for thinking I have some expertise to lend you. I know you have many choices where you can get information from and I'm glad you're trusting me with that choice.

Okay, so, thought we'd practice some of the behaviors we're talking about to, often in faculty development, uh, we had a tendency to just lecture to people about what we're doing and not actually model the behaviors we want to see. So, I'm going to do a quick one-take video, just like I do for my classes, but for you all, on some things to think about when making videos.

Okay, don't spend your life doing this. We're not, this is not Hollywood quality movies we want to make. We want to make educational resources that seem real. I hate to break it to you but you've all made mistakes in class in front of the students. Might as well do it here and give them a real, accurate show of who we are.

Okay, bad news aside. Don't worry about being perfect. One take. Now, occasionally I have to do two takes. And I got to tell you, it actually makes me really frustrated. You can tell when I start the video, it's going to be like take two! I really do like to do this in one take. So don't worry about being perfect. And it's going to take some time to get used to being in front of the camera. It's going to take some time to keep your energy up, to project your voice, to talk like there's really people in front of you. As opposed to an empty chair that's right there or a wall that's there and nothing going on. So it does take a while to get used to. Don't worry, it will come, it'll get more natural, just like everything you do.

Check your background. Make sure you don't have, you know, random toys, you know, unless you want to. I mean I'm okay with people knowing I'm a bit of a nerd or dork, whatever you would like to call me and I like Doctor Who, and uh, here's Clara, and the twelfth doctor if

you're also a Doctor Who nerd. But think about what's in the background, now I've covered up, there's a little Christmas tree still out from the holiday in the back of the room. So you do have to think about these things: what's in the background, um, what could people actually see. Including if you're on your computer, looking at tabs and other things that might be open, making sure there's not thing you would want to just be out in the public sector, even if it's not anything bad, but just something, you know.

And can you see where the shadow is changing on me? I'm going to skip down to check your lighting and reflection. When I film at home, it took me awhile to figure out the time of day I wanted to film and stack up these pillows on the end of, uh, my breakfast bar because it blocks the reflection on the board and I get a nice clean video. But I notice when I'm changing like this I'm changing the shadows a little bit. Um, hopefully it's not too annoying. I would actually find a new way to film but I actually think this is nice to demo for you all. So, that lighting/reflection piece matters. So, think about how you want to do that.

And the other problem is we have an all-white board and I'm wearing very dark colors. This is bad! I didn't think this through. I should be wearing, um, something that's not so dark. You don't want to wear all dark or all white. Your skin looks weird, and the lighting, and the focusing of the camera, has a little bit of trouble with that. So, think about that. If you want to seem like an authority figure, wear red. If you would like to seem welcoming to you students, wear green. And of course, you know, that means that Christmas time is both very authoritarian, they check, he knows when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. Very, you know, 1984. But also welcoming, toys and little elves! So, you know, there you have it.

Oh! Which brings me back, I'm not the best in the business for nothing, folks. Be yourself on these videos. I'm a goof. I do terrible jokes and puns and I do the same thing in my videos. I find the students really didn't like if I cut them out. So, so be yourself.

Try to be concise, I may not be, may not be accomplishing that right now. Ideally your video should be six minutes or less. I find I cover a complete chemical concept, I'm a chemistry professor, takes me about twelve minutes. I'm okay with that. My lec- my fifty-minute lecture videos are about, on average, I've checked it out, twenty one minutes. So, it's not too bad! Students are saving some time. Now of course they're probably pausing, and rewinding, and re-watching parts. So maybe it works out to fifty minutes. Anyways, so, at least the students are controlling that tempo and that pace. And if they're running late and they just want to get the basic concepts before they come to class, they can, you know, do that in a half hour or less's time. So that's a good thing.

And I think I've covered everything here. I hope these things are helpful. My, my big advice would be try a few different things, see what you like, uh, realize it's going to be a little bit frustrating until you get used to the technology and what kind of tri-pod you want to use, do you want to shoot with your camera, do you want to use, uh, screencastomatic, or do you want to invest in something high tech like captasian, put voiceover music and all kinds of things and go Hollywood style. Um, but just hang in there, try it out, give it a shot. Year one, uh I made tons and tons of mistakes. And you know, it showed in the student feedback, and it showed in my grades. And year two, I did much better and uh, actually the, all of those problems were gone. So, you know, and I had played with it before so it was really kind of like year three.

So it's going to take a little while. You're going to talk to colleagues, a lot of them, uh, the first year goes disastrous and half of them quit and half of them stick with it. And all the ones

that stuck with it, they said year two went really well and in many cases, better than their traditional classes. So, that's my advice. Thank you so much for your time and energy and good spirits and have a wonderful rest of your day!