Camtasia Quick Tips

Follow a Transcript & Storyboard. Following a transcript and storyboard prevents redundancy, and it will also prevent you from stumbling on words and creating long pauses in between sentences. Following a transcript will also make captioning your video easier. If you do not want to follow a transcript, make sure to at least outline or storyboard what you plan to record.

Tell a Story. Stories are compelling and memorable. Think about how to introduce your subject, how to build suspense or curiosity, and what the “moral” of your story is. You can also add additional media (videos, images, diagrams etc.) in Camtasia to help illustrate your points.

Test Your Microphone. Have you ever been to an event that did not do a sound check? Invest one minute to making sure your microphone is recording at a clear and moderate volume. One quick way to test your microphone is to click on the Tools tab up top in Camtasia and select Voice Narration. Then test your audio by clicking on the Audio Setup Wizard button.

Eliminate Background Noise. Do your best to isolate yourself from miscellaneous noises. Consider purchasing an external USB mic. Feel free to make a reservation for our quiet room by visiting http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/ and click on eCampus Video Lab from the Design Resources tab.

Record and Edit in Small Segments. Break your lectures into smaller individual topics lectures. Working in segments will make your recording and editing experience much more manageable. Recording a whole lecture with the goal of finishing in one attempt will increase the amount of time you will spend looking for errors and editing.

Don’t Talk with Your Mouse. If you plan to create a screen capture video, keep your cursor steady and avoid moving it around too much while recording. If necessary, you can highlight the cursor in Camtasia.

Record, Edit and Produce in Same Size and High Definition Settings. Have you ever tried watching a video where the text looked really blurry? This happens because of their recording, editing and production settings were not all the same. Keep your video in large, high quality dimensions.

Add Callouts, Pan and Zoom, and Transitions. Consistent and judicious use of these elements highlight important information, draw attention to a specific area of your screen, and can make your videos look more professional.

Caption your Videos. Accessibility is not only a best practice but it is the law. Captioning not only helps users with a disability, but also helps those with English as their second language. For more information, please visit http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/camtasia-snagit/camtasia/index.html and click on Camtasia: Captioning Guide.