



2021-2022 School Year: Engaging Youth from a Distance

While the majority of schools will be back in person this year, there is still a chance that for the safety of their students, teachers could request to have our speakers to join their class virtually. See below for some tips for presenting online.

1. **Test your set-up ahead of time.** You'll need a computer (desktop or laptop), a microphone or phone for audio/sound, and ideally a webcam. Many laptops have a webcam and microphone built in. If not, you can purchase a webcam with a built in microphone relatively inexpensively from Amazon or Best Buy. Zoom is fairly common, but there is a possibility that a school uses a different platform, so if you can, test it out ahead of time so you are familiar with the controls.
 - a. Zoom has a lot of tutorials that you can watch to learn more. Here is one on how to share your screen—which you would be doing to share the presentation and videos: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362153-Sharing-your-screen>
2. **Prepare your environment.** Silence your phone, turn off desktop notifications, get rid of loud noises, and make sure your room is kid/dog free (if possible). Also, if your presentation will use a video feed of you (which we recommend), you should plan to dress appropriately.
3. **Set ground rules.** Be explicit with your plan and expectations. If students are joining the presentation individually from home, you'll likely want them muted for the presentation. Let them know if they should submit their questions via a chat box, or if they should hold them for the end. If we are being virtually presented to an in-person class, maybe ask the students to write down their questions so you can take them at the end. Whatever you are comfortable with—but let them know ahead of time.
4. **Keep it engaging.** Depending on the set-up, try to incorporate more questions and discussions throughout the presentation. For example, ask for students to respond to the true/false questions in a chat box. If they are on camera, ask them to give a thumbs up/thumbs down for true/false. If you are more adept at online presentations, think about adding in a poll. Think of ways to keep them engaged throughout the presentation.
5. **Check in regularly.** Presenting online can be hard because you lose the non-verbal cues that students can give to show understanding or confusion. It can be easy to just assume that they understand since you don't have that feedback loop, but make sure to check in from time-to-time to verify.