

Recording Speeches – two options

1. An ultra-small camcorder. We use the RCA Small Wonder (approx \$99) in the dept. Each speech is a separate digital file and the camera has the USB connector built right in. Can check it out online at <http://www.mysmallwonder.com/>
 - a. Advantages – small, light, cheap, a standard tripod connection, do not need a computer connection while recording, do not need to process the digital files, can expand memory with a SD card, fast & easy connection to computer.
 - b. Disadvantages – uses AA batteries and can burn through them pretty quick. I recommend the optional power cord. Limited zoom. Sound can be scratchy (but fine for classroom speeches).
 - c. Example – you can see a Small Wonder example videostream at http://msustr0.campus.mnsu.edu:8080/cah/dmills/showcase09/Grant_Persuade.wmv
2. A stand-alone webcam. Most webcams are designed to connect to the top of the laptop, but some are stand-alone that work well for recording speeches (and added bonus they still work as a webcam). We use the the Logitech QuickCam Orbit AF (http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/webcam_communications/webcams/devices/3480&cl=us,en).
 - a. Advantages – small, lightweight, files are saved right into the computer (no need to transfer files). Each speech is its own distinct digital file. Easy to use.
 - b. Disadvantages – needs to be connected to a computer to use. Works fine with a laptop or if desktop is at back of classroom – can have a student run the webcam as the class videographer. May be problematic if desktop computer is at front of classroom where student would be speaking. Picture gets a little blurry if student is too far away.

Getting Speeches to the Students

This is actually the more difficult of the issues. How do you get the digital files in the students' hands?

1. Can you use cheap flashdrives (have each student buy one if they don't already own one). For example - http://www.target.com/Kodak-1GB-USB-Jump-Drive/dp/B001CO9Y3M/sr=1-13/qid=1248471278/ref=sr_1_13/191-7009009-5409808?ie=UTF8&search-alias=tgt-index&frombrowse=0&index=target&field-original-keywords=flashdrive&rh=k%3Aflash%20drive&page=1
 - a. Advantage – student can plug the drive into any computer and watch the speech. Does not require an internet connection.
 - b. Disadvantages – students need to buy the flashdrive (will school let you require the purchase?). Have to transfer the speech-file from the computer into the flashdrive.
2. Use an internet server
 - a. Load the files onto a streaming server (if the district has one and if they will allow you access).
 - b. Load the files onto a standard internet server. If school let's teachers have their own webpages, then should have access to load files into the server and make an easy link to the digital speech files.
 - c. Send to students by e-mail – only issue is digital files are often too large for the mail server to handle.

- d. Load the files onto a online learning platform (e.g., Desire2Learn, WebCT, Blackboard), if school provides teachers with access to such a platform.
3. Upload speeches to www.youtube.com
 - A. Disadvantages – the world can see your students’ speeches. (I’ve heard you can set a video for restricted viewing status, but not sure how it’s done).
 - B. Advantages – can batch upload videos