

A few things to consider when recording live book readings

1. Setting in which you are recording
 - a. Where is your location?
 - i. A quiet area free from distractions is preferable in order to limit background noise so your voice is heard loud and clear.
 - ii. Your background should be uncluttered so that the child is focused on you while you're reading and not distracted by what is behind you.
 - iii. You should be in a well-lit area. Natural lighting helps. In dim light, videos tend to be "grainy" and low quality.
 - iv. Sit just far enough away from the camera that the child can see the entire book.
2. While you read
 - a. Give a brief introduction of yourself. Introductions should include the following:
 - i. Your name, school name (if you are a student) and something personal about yourself. Example: "Hi my name is Karen and I am a Senior at Concordia University. I also play volleyball and I am so excited to read to you today."
 - b. Introduce the book.
 - i. Title
 - ii. Author
 - iii. Illustrator
 - c. Hold the book still when possible. This is important since movement tends to be distracting and can cause your viewer to lose attention.
 - d. Try to keep the book in the frame throughout the video.
 - e. Read slowly and clearly, slower than you would to an older child. Reading slowly gives young children the chance to hear the words while looking at the pictures to better comprehend the book.
 - f. After reading the words of a page, feel free to go "off script" sometimes. You may want to make a comment about the pictures or ask a question, prompting the children to think more about what they're seeing or hearing.

- g. Don't be afraid of pauses. Holding the page close to the camera for a few seconds (5?) so kids can just look at the pictures, will give them time to think about the words or question you may have asked.
- h. When you finish reading the book, you may want to pose a question or two about the “message” or theme of the book, if one is apparent, perhaps giving the student something to think about after the video is over. Hopefully many of our books will teach children about the importance of diversity, self confidence, compassion, pride in one’s culture and heritage, etc.
- i. Finally, you may have a closing statement, example: "Thank you for watching and I'll see you in my next video."

*Pro-tip – Instead of reading directly from the book, and needing to move it towards and away from the camera as you do that, write the words on a “script” that you can post next to the camera. Then as you read the script the book can stay in clear focus for the kids, with relatively little movement.

A few things to consider when recording other videos

1. Setting in which you are recording
 - a. Where is your location?
 - i. A quiet area free from distractions is preferable in order to limit background noise so your voice is heard. However, this may not be possible depending on the type of video you are creating. So remember to speak loud and clearly so that you may be heard.
 - ii. You should be in a well-lit area. Natural lighting helps. In dim light, videos tend to be “grainy” and low quality.
 - iii. Make sure the activity you are doing is fully within the view of the camera.

3. When you begin to record
 - a. Give a brief introduction of yourself. Introductions should include the following:
 - i. Your name, school name (if you are a student) and something personal about yourself. Example: "Hi my name is Karen and I am a Senior at Concordia University. I also play volleyball and I am so excited to read to you today."

- b. Tell students about the activity you will be recording. What you will be showing them and the materials you will be using.
- c. Don't be afraid of pauses. Pausing during your presentation gives teachers a chance to ask questions and add their thoughts during the video. It also gives students a chance to think about what they are learning.
- d. When you finish with the lesson, you may want to pose a question or two about the lesson. Give students something to think about and something teachers can discuss.
- e. Finally, you may have a closing statement, example: "Thank you for watching and I'll see you in my next video."

Any time you would like to discuss any other ideas or questions about video production, please let us know. Also, please remember that reading books to kids should be fun for you too!! We hope to offer teachers and kids the best quality videos we can make, but we're not professionals. We know that if you have fun reading, the kids will have fun listening to you and will learn a lot. So give it a shot and enjoy the process!!