

UpOnline Course Consultation Program

Simple Self Introduction Video (SIV) Guide

Dr. David S. McCurry, Director of Distance Education

For online courses, it is highly beneficial to create a short, personal introduction of yourself as the course instructor. There should also be an introduction to the course (the Course Introduction Video or CIV, but that is different). A guide is available for that too.

A Self Introduction Video (SIV) serves a number of purposes in an online course.

1. It immediately helps connect each student with you, the course professor.
2. It takes the place of the initial introduction you might do on the first day of class in a face to face environment.
3. It provides an image of a physical location of you as a professional and as a teacher, rather than just a disembodied textual “voice” in the course.
4. It can serve as a creative way for you to engage the students in the subject or topic of the course.
5. For many professors, it serves as a low-pressure way to enter into the process of creating video materials to convey course content, ideas, concepts, explanations and observations necessary in online environments.

Here are some key features in the SIV.

1. They are short. Under 2 minutes with 90 seconds being pretty much enough. I have seen good ones done in 45 seconds.
2. They focus on **you** the professor, **your** communicative style, **your** interest in the content and materials in the course. They do NOT focus on the course or its content. The Course Introduction Video, or CIV, will do that for you.
3. They are recorded in your own professional workspace, typically an office on campus or at home, or elsewhere (public location) if that is what you want to convey. The office should look exactly as it does on a typical day (yes, that messy).
4. The student should have the impression that they are visiting you in your office, perhaps for office hours, seeing what they would as if they were sitting in your workspace.



One of my Converse College faculty colleagues, Dr. Zan Schuweiler (Art History). She was nervous about doing her SIV, but actually did very well.

Here are some things I have learned about doing these videos over many years.

1. **You will be nervous doing this.** Being recorded on video is always somewhat anxiety producing. All actors have some degree of performance anxiety. Just breathe and it will be fine.
2. **You will not like the way you look or sound.** There is nothing wrong with the video. All video recording is a distortion of our own self-image. Let it go and don't worry about it.
3. **Think of some things to say in advance** about the following short prompts. That will help tremendously.
4. **Look directly into the camera** as if they were someone on the other side of the lens listening to you.
5. It should only take about 15 minutes of your time, if you have prepared.

Here are some simple prompts to follow during the recording.

1. Introduce yourself. "Hi, I'm Dr. (or Mr or Ms) Coolprofessor."
2. Welcome them into your workspace.
3. Remind them of what the course is about (briefly), where it fits with the overall curriculum they are following. You can dispel any myths about the content of the course here (this course is NOT about). Don't go into too much depth on this. You can save that for the CIV. Acknowledge the scope of the course and remind them that the course intro video will go into detail about what is expected.
4. Tell them one thing about yourself that is personal. A hobby, non-academic or professional interest,
5. Tell them about your own academic and research interest and your passion for the content of the course, why YOU think this is important for them to know.
6. Tell them that you look forward to interacting with them and getting to know them better.

That's all there is to it. Contact Dr. McCurry now to schedule your video.

dmccurry@uscpstate.edu

864.503.5509 X5509