Vizual Symphony

5 Basic Pieces of Gear Every Instructor Needs for Online Teaching

Some are born great at teaching online.
Some achieve greatness.
And some have greatness thrust upon 'em.

These are strange times indeed, especially for instructors who suddenly find themselves teaching online. Whether you've been an online instructor for years or you've had to make a sudden pivot to continue teaching your students, as they say, "The show must go on."

The good news is, you don't need to be a lifetime member of the A/V Club to pull lessons off without a hitch. In fact, there are only five basic pieces of gear you need to make each session a joy to hear and watch… at least until it's time to assign homework.

Here's all you need to assemble the perfect web conferencing kit:

☑ A Light Ring
If you've ever watched a makeup tutorial online, you know exactly what this is. But it's not just the secret tool of fashionistas and YouTubers. A light ring will illuminate your face, providing ideal lighting without shadows, no matter where you set up.

☑ A Second Camera
Your computer's camera is fine if you only want to show your face or even your face plus some slides. But what if you also want to write on a white board, do a lab experiment, or use other teaching aids? With a secondary camera, you can do so seamlessly.

☑ A Tripod
Again, your computer's camera does an okay job. But if you want to be able to control the camera angle or height, or you want to stand or move around, you can't beat the flexibility of a tripod.

☑ A Good Microphone
Nothing's more distracting than poor audio quality. Without a decent microphone, you're likely to sound tinny or muffled. This very simple equipment upgrade can make each lesson a joy to listen to, rather than making students want to tune out.

☑ Some Basic Cables and Connectors
For some instructors, this is the scariest item on the list. Of course, there's no avoiding having a way to connect your equipment together. We know nobody really wants to guess which connectors and cables they need, or have to remember how they wrangled a bunch of wires the last time they got it to work. That's why our web conferencing kits for educators come pre-wired in their own carrying case. You just unpack it, plug it in, and go. No IT Department needed!

As school districts, universities, and community colleges shift to online education-only for the foreseeable future, it's crucial to help make our nation's educators' jobs as easy as we can.

If you could use some help choosing equipment for your school, the pros at Vizual Symphony would be happy to help. Whether you're outfitting a single instructor or a whole campus, we can put together plug-and-play web conferencing kits that will make online instruction a breeze. Plus, we have financing options any Board will want to green-light. Just reach out and we'll help you.