

How to use a document camera for online teaching

A document camera combines a camera and a stand, and it can be used to stream or record teaching that involves a flat surface, e.g. paper.

- A document camera can also replace a web camera to film yourself or the classroom.

How to get started:

1. Connect the document camera to your computer with the USB cable. Some models must also be connected to a power source and require a model-specific driver. Download and activate the driver, if necessary.
2. The computer (and programs like Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate) will recognize the document camera as an additional web camera.
 - Document cameras can also function as web cameras, if necessary!

Potential challenges when teaching with a document camera:

1. Poor image or sound quality: A good internet connection is required, and it is best to use a dark, thick pen to write.
2. Flipped image: In the document camera settings, one can typically change the image orientation. The orientation can also be changed in programs such as Zoom.
3. Showing the image from the document camera to students in Zoom: Because the document camera will be treated by Zoom as a second web camera, you will need to switch between the two “cameras” if you want your students to be able to see you or the classroom.

