

Unobtrusive Digital Video Capture of Live Classroom Instruction

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Educational videographers face the challenge of recording actual classroom footage without getting in the way of the teaching. Conventional thinking takes one or more video cameras into a classroom setting, with a wireless microphone for the teacher and a boom microphone for student interaction, and records the lesson in real time. This method is very obtrusive. The team at Arizona State University's Technology Based Learning and Research has developed an unobtrusive video capture method. This innovative approach has met with great success and is changing classroom video practices.

Rather than seeing classroom footage as a single or dual camera video, where the two cameras are edited together to form some sort of cohesive lesson, the TBLR video team looked at videotaping a classroom more like a sports event. To achieve an event capture scenario, the first step was to employ multiple cameras. One or two cameras are fine if you are grabbing bits and pieces with extensive editing. The goal here was to walk out of a classroom with an hour of finished program that could be understood by anyone watching it. Capturing the feel and spirit of the instructional lesson was an important detail that should not be stifled with heavy equipment. The intent is to let the lesson and content stand on its own. This presentation will show a video demonstrating an unobtrusive method of digital video capture.