



DIGESTIBLES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Small Ideas for a Big Job!

Digestible #28

Lights, Action, Camera?....

Much conversation has been had recently about whether **cameras on during video chats** exposes our vulnerable communities unnecessarily and involuntarily. After all, the disparities in people's living circumstances and resources show up in living color when it's all on live camera. Are you allowing your students to keep their cameras off? And if you're doing that, how do you know they're listening, paying attention, participating when you're expected to assess them at the end of all this? And why are we so exhausted at the end of a videoconference? Below please find some **tips for THINKING about these issues**. The answer to these questions might seem binary--a simple, clear solution--but those on BOTH sides of the fence feel that their answer is the right one.

Alecia at AIMS



The Prioritization Principle

Camera on or off? This point for consideration was one that we've only recently begun to discuss in earnest, now that we have met the "basic" needs of actually offering an online program of high quality. The fantastic article from Taharee Jackson captures the complexity best, "[COVID-19 and Videoclassism: Implicit Bias, Video Judgement, and Why I'm Terrified to Have You Look Over My Shoulder.](#)" The [Equity Literacy Institute](#) describes the process of moving from the basics of equity to the more subtle ones as "the prioritization principle." They offer "a **non-exhaustive list of equity considerations—what we must consider in order to be equity-responsive in the current context—followed by a list of recommendations** for maximizing equity efforts in the coming weeks or months." The camera-on/off issue definitely makes this list. Read about it below.



[Learn More](#)

Why Are Video Conferences So Exhausting?

It's not all in your mind, **video conferences are exhausting in a way that teaching and learning face-to-face is not.** Why is that? The article below from [Inside Higher Ed](#) does a thorough job of explaining why this new medium is challenging to our minds and senses in a different way, and what you can do about it.

[Learn More](#)

Hope is an elixir right now for all of us. It's not Friday, when we've been including full poems for National Poetry Month, but we just could not resist including this little gem today. [Here's the rest of "Hope' Is the Thing With Feathers" by Emily Dickinson.](#)

*Hope is the thing with feathers that
perches in the soul - and sings the
tunes without the words - and never
stops at all.*

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