



# About Screencasts

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## What are screencasts?

Screencasts are video recordings that capture the images and motion on your computer screen. You can add voice narration and use the cursor to point at things on the screen as you record. The finished screencasts can then be posted online or stored on a CD.

## How can screencasts enhance teaching and learning?

Screencasts have been used in a wide variety of disciplines, including chemistry, English, psychology, art history, etc.

Instructors have used screencasts to:

- Create tutorials for students
- Give students guided tours of web sites (e.g., how to navigate the U.S. Census site or how to find a foreign language newspaper)
- Comment on a photograph, work of art, or other image displayed on the computer screen
- Create narrated PowerPoint presentations
- Show students how to use bibliographic or other software
- Discuss concepts illustrated in a computer-based simulation as it runs

## How can I get started with screencasts?

The Technology Resource Center (C104 Hunter North) can help you learn to use screencasting software. Several options are available:

- Jing is a free tool that runs on both Windows and the Macintosh. It is available at <http://www.jingproject.com/>. This software can be used to create short screencasts that do not require editing. The screencasts can be stored on the Jing server.
- Wink is free Windows-based software that can be used to create Flash screencasts. Wink can be downloaded at <http://www.debugmode.com/wink/>.
- CamStudio is another free Windows-based application that generates Flash screencasts. CamStudio can be downloaded at <http://camstudio.org/>.
- Camtasia Studio, available for Windows and the Macintosh, can be used to create more complex screencasts that require editing, interactivity, or special effects. Camtasia Studio also has a PowerPoint plug-in that allows you to create narrated PowerPoint presentations. Camtasia is available for use in the Technology Resource Center (C104 Hunter North).

For additional assistance, please contact our educational technologists: [edtech@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:edtech@hunter.cuny.edu).