



The Digital Learning Network's

Quarterly Technology Update

Fall 2016 Edition

Get ready to get on camera with the DLN!

No matter how small your project, the whole world could be watching and learning live via the Web!



DLN Specialist Scott Anderson saying "aloha" from Mars



DLN Specialist Dr. Caryn Long demonstrating our Åop secret cloaking technologyÅ



Look closely and you can see the green screen through hair if it is not pulled back.

A DLiNsider's Guide to On-Camera Appearance

Every part of your visual appearance, from your hair to your clothes, can make all the difference when giving a presentation. The more refined your appearance, the fewer distractions your audience will have from the content. Let your wealth of knowledge be louder than your wardrobe.

- Just because your shirt is wrinkled doesn't mean you will get more press. If you are wearing a nice jacket, it is recommended to pull the bottom edges down and tuck them under you while sitting; this keeps the jacket neat and crisp looking.
- Unless you've always wanted to be invisible, never wear green in front of a green screen or blue in front of a blue screen.
- Reflective sequins, busy patterns (especially stripes), and that stubborn mustard stain can all detract from your performance. Solid colors work very well, including gold, medium blue, and most pastel colors. Avoid white.
- Studio lights will make even a little bit of sweat or oily skin appear shiny. Consider using some translucent powder or makeup.
- Everyone has bad hair days, but green screens can make them worse. Consider pulling your hair away from your face such as into braids, a bun, or a pony tail.

Don't worry about little mistakes that happen now and then; as you can see from our pictures, we've made some too. Stop by your local DLN studio, and your resident specialist can help you be ready to get on camera.

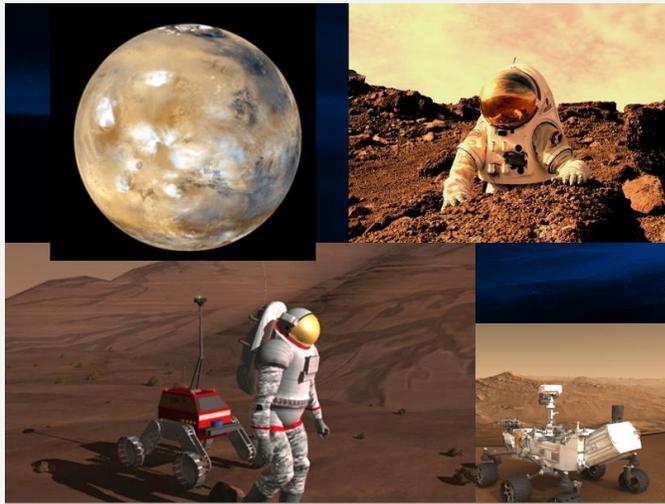


Arrr.. Do you think this be too much?

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Less is More with Slideshow Presentations



Too many images make a slide look cluttered. Ideally, each slide should highlight just one image. Only add a second image when directly comparing or contrasting them.

Types of Visual Aids

Just because you are giving a speech, doesn't automatically mean that all your audience wants to do is watch you talk. After all, two-thirds of people are visual learners, and visual aids can be a life preserver for a seminar that otherwise flood them with words. Audiences benefit from a variety of imagery and interactive elements, including:

- Scale models
- Demonstrations
- Do-it-yourself projects
- NASA artifacts
- Costumes
- Video clips

If you are not sure what sort of visual aids that would improve the quality of your presentation, stop by your local DLN studio and a Specialist will make some recommendations.



In the same way, too many words can reduce the impact of the photo, chart, or diagram that you are sharing. The position, font, and color of the text is also important. The top text is much easier to read than the bottom text because it has higher contrast with the background.



Finally, remember that you are more interesting than any slideshow! Bring visual aids, such as the space suit glove above, to make sure things do not get monotonous. Refer to the sidebar on the left for additional ideas on how you can use visual aids to show instead of tell.

How Does Chroma Key Work?

You have probably heard of blue screens and green screens being used for movies; but, with modern technology, almost any color can work. In fact, some of the earliest movie magic was done with black so that the film could be double exposed – once with the actors and once with a painted background matte. Today, a computer can be programmed to ignore any specific range of colors in the digital recording of a film or broadcast, which can then be replaced with something else. Green and blue are common choices because human skin tones typically lack those colors. However, since the computer is capable of using any color, the more generic term “chroma key” has become standard.



Left: Green screens would not work very well if humans were green too.

Right: The brown splotchy areas could be caused by an improperly calibrated chroma key, poorly lit areas, or ripples in the fabric.



Lights, Camera...not so fast!



If you have too much light, you will quickly learn what it feels like to live on Mercury



If you have too little light, you might cast as the brooding protagonist of a gritty superhero movie.

Types of Service

NASA's Digital Learning Network provides a dependable service that can help you to create online experiences that are:

- Exceptional,
- Engaging, and
- Educationally sound.

The DLN Specialist at your Center has the equipment and expertise necessary to make sure that your content will reach your audience with the high quality and professionalism expected of NASA. Our team makes things easy.

Visit your local studio to find out how!

Training

Learn how to be an all-around better presenter or practice with a specific technology

Videoconferencing

Interact with up to three locations with high-end dedicated hardware

Webconferencing

Interact with up to 200 Internet-connected locations at once

Webcasting

Broadcast live video to the whole world!

NASA TV

Televise your latest breakthrough while letting the DLN handle the connection!



Right: A DLN studio complete with a green screen

Below: DLN Specialist David Anderson wondering why his legs won't show up on camera



The entire DLN team is here to help you – we are just an email away!

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