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# I WANT TO OBSERVE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING SKILLS.

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Technology, specifically video-conferencing tools, allows you to observe students in real time or through a recorded session. You can utilize these platforms to view students demonstrating skills, ask questions, and evaluate their performance. Alternatively, require students to record themselves demonstrating skills for you to view and evaluate at your own pace. Allowing filmed assessments gives you flexibility when it comes to observing and grading.

Students can benefit from using video for this type of assessment. They can see their mistakes during playback, correct their mistakes with multiple takes, and increase their confidence through self-reflection. Students using video for assessments can evaluate themselves, promoting self-directed learning.

It is recommended to first survey your students to ensure they have the proper technology and equipment for this type of activity. If technology gaps exist, consider redesigning your assessment item so students can still achieve the same outcome.

## Tips & Ideas

- **Use Blackboard Collaborate breakout groups** for students to practice skills together in small groups using webcams, audio features, and whiteboards. You can join any breakout group as the moderator to answer questions and provide informal evaluations during this practice session.
- **Tie your observation to a rubric** so students are aware and informed of the criteria for success. [Rubrics](#) are easy to create in Blackboard and make your grading simple and efficient. The scores you input will also automatically populate in your gradebook. Be sure that your criteria are clear, mutually exclusive, and align with your learning outcomes.
- **Instruct students to record themselves** demonstrating the skill using Webex or any recording device they are comfortable using. Create a [Blackboard assignment](#) for students to upload their submission.
- **Schedule one-on-one evaluations** with your students using Webex or Blackboard Collaborate to assess their skills in real time.