Lightboard Studio

1. What is it?

The Lightboard is a glass presentation area filled with light. It’s for recording video lectures. You face your viewers, and your writing and other presentation tools show up in front of you. (Photos 1-3)

2. How does it work?

You present while standing behind the glass and write your notes on the glass with neon markers. The light from the lightboard picks up the neon and magnifies it so that it can be easily seen in the camera’s lens. The camera then records a mirror image of your writing so that your viewers can read what you have written on the board.

If you choose to use a presentation tool, such as PowerPoint, you will advance your slides as you progress through your presentation.

3. What are the key features?

The lightboard can be as high or low tech as you want to be. You can simply write your notes on the board, and describe the concepts, or illustrations, etc. If you choose to use some type of presentation software (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) that content displays on the lightboard just as it does on a screen. The lightboard works with both Macs and PCs.

4. What are the potential uses?

The lightboard can be used to support different course configurations such as flipped, blended, or fully online courses and/or labs. It can also be used to accommodate student or faculty absences from a course.

5. What are the implications for teaching and learning?

The Lightboard Studio provides faculty with opportunities to deliver meaningful lectures to their students before they enter the classroom. When they come to class, students can spend their time working on projects, discussing in groups, or asking follow-up questions about the online lectures.

In addition to this, many faculty members have commented that their students say that they feel more connected to them, even though they may never have been in the same room as their students. Lightboard lessons allow students to pause and rewind the videos when a concept is unclear or needs to be reviewed.
6. What are Lightboard Studio best practices?

- Video length: Videos should be less than 10 minutes (3-5 minutes is optimum) in order to maintain student interest.
- Creating multiple shorter videos, each associated with a specific concept is an effective way to “chunk content” for student learning.
- The Lightboard Studio provides opportunity to diagram or illustrate concepts that are difficult to describe with words alone.
- View Introduction to the ISU Lightboard Recording Studio YouTube video (https://youtu.be/uGd2LrXK89I) by Scott Grawe, Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives, and Associate Professor Supply Chain & Information Systems, College of Business.

7. How are other institutions using Lightboard Studios?

To see how other institutions are using Lightboard Studios visit the following websites:

- Northwestern University’s Lightboards of the World (http://bit.ly/2mBGZ7X)
- Northwestern University (http://lightboard.info/)
- University of Notre Dame (http://science.nd.edu/faculty/lightboard/)
- Stanford University (http://online.stanford.edu/news/2014/12/18/light-board)
- Duke University (https://sites.duke.edu/ddmc/category/lightboard/)

8. Additional information

- View Chronicle of Higher Education’s How to prepare professors who thought they’d never teach online web article (http://bit.ly/2miXEw8)
- Download EDUCAUSE’s 7 Things You Should Know About: Lightboard PDF (http://bit.ly/2mBK87R)

Interested in learning more?

The ISU Lightboard Studio is in 2B Parks Library and its usage is currently coordinated by CELT. Members of the ISU teaching community may use the Lightboard Studio by emailing celt@iastate.edu or calling CELT at 515-294-5357 to schedule a studio operator. Non-CELT clients will need to provide their own CELT-trained Lightboard Studio operator.

Revised August 27, 2019