

Professional Development: Screencast-O-Matic

David Alan Pearson, Lecturer of English, Foundation Program

Foundation English Lecturer, Alaeddin Halwani, presented a workshop on Screen-O-Matic on March 25th, at Qatar University. This workshop was offered by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Screen-O-Matic, Halwani explained, is an online screen recorder for instant screen capture and video recording. It allows an instructor or student to overdub a narration of what is happening onscreen.

Screen-O-Matic then creates a link so that the screen recording can be easily shared

or posted on Blackboard.

Screen-O-Matic is wonderful tool for online tutorials. It enables instructors to use the computer's webcam to open a box which shows them talking as they work on the larger screen. In addition, it allows instructors to comment on students' work by using the cursor to highlight, underline, or draw circles around anything happening onscreen. Instructors can also easily edit and combine videos.

Screen-O-Matic is excellent for video announcements and student assignments.

Instructors can require students to create screencasts in response to specific questions or as a formative assessment of an ongoing project.

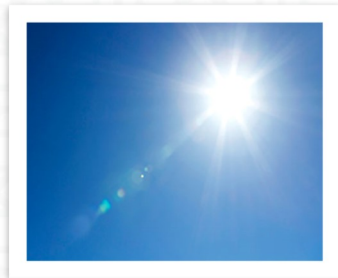
As Halwani explained, having the opportunity to create something is "motivating for students". Why not give Screen-O-Matic a try?



Alaeddin Halwani: Photograph courtesy of David Alan Pearson

Heat Stress

Wedad Khaled Maatouk, Teaching Assistant of English, Foundation Program



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The Foundation Program's Health & Safety Committee would like to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our faculty and staff during the summer. In an effort to raise awareness, the committee would like to briefly explain heat stress and share some helpful tips to avoid any serious health problems.

Heat stress occurs when the body cannot cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. When your body sweats a lot under hot conditions, the body does not have enough water to cool itself. This usually results in dehydration and a rise in body temperature. Symptoms of heat stress can then develop. These symptoms can range from minor discomfort

to severe medical conditions such as heat rash, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Heat stress is mainly prevented by drinking water. However, wearing light, loose clothing, wearing sunglasses and hats, applying sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15, and staying in the shade can also help.

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Photograph: Courtesy of David John Bartsch