

Using Drawing Tablets to Create Instructional Videos Using Canva's New Draw & Recording Features

It's hard to find tools that are both incredibly feature-rich while also being simple enough to roll out to a class full of students in a single period. Canva, though, is one of those tools. From being a teacher design tool for making posters, lessons plans, and graphic organizers to one for student expression and creativity in demonstrating their learning, Canva packs in so many possibilities and templates to inspire.

In this post, we want to focus on two new features: the draw tool and video recorder. These tools together are fantastic for creating instructional content. Advocates of the [flipped classroom model](#) and other blended learning styles know how powerful video can be in helping students take ownership of their learning.

How to make Canva presentations interactive when teaching

One method is to make an instructional-style video using Canva. Math teachers rely heavily on handwriting to clearly communicate instruction to their students.

"Based on feedback from my students over years of using instructional videos in my classroom, they highly prefer videos where I'm writing and talking at the same time (versus just watching a video where someone is talking over an answer key that has been filled out in advance). My students have shared that it's helpful to see the writing in real-time to stay engaged and follow the solution process. That is why I'm so excited that Canva now has the draw tool built right in to make creating this type of content a breeze for anyone!"

- Stacey Roshan, High School Math Teacher & Director of Innovation and Educational Technology at Bullis School

Stacey uses a drawing tablet to create her instructional videos in Canva. [Wacom drawing tablets](#) plug into a Windows, Mac or Chromebook computer and allow a user to draw with pen precision in any application. Stacey's preferred tablet for making instructional-style videos is the [Wacom One](#). (Check out this video to learn more about [Which Wacom Tablet is Best for You](#).)

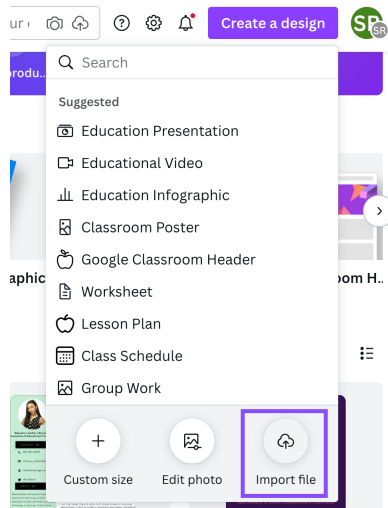
Can you use a drawing tablet with Canva?

The new draw tool in Canva works extremely well with drawing tablets. Your pen strokes are very smooth and natural. With the right tools, you can communicate really effectively and efficiently with a quick video. Many people are hesitant to make videos because it seems so difficult. That is why we want to share some simple tools and methods to help you find similar joy in the process.

How to make instructional videos using Canva

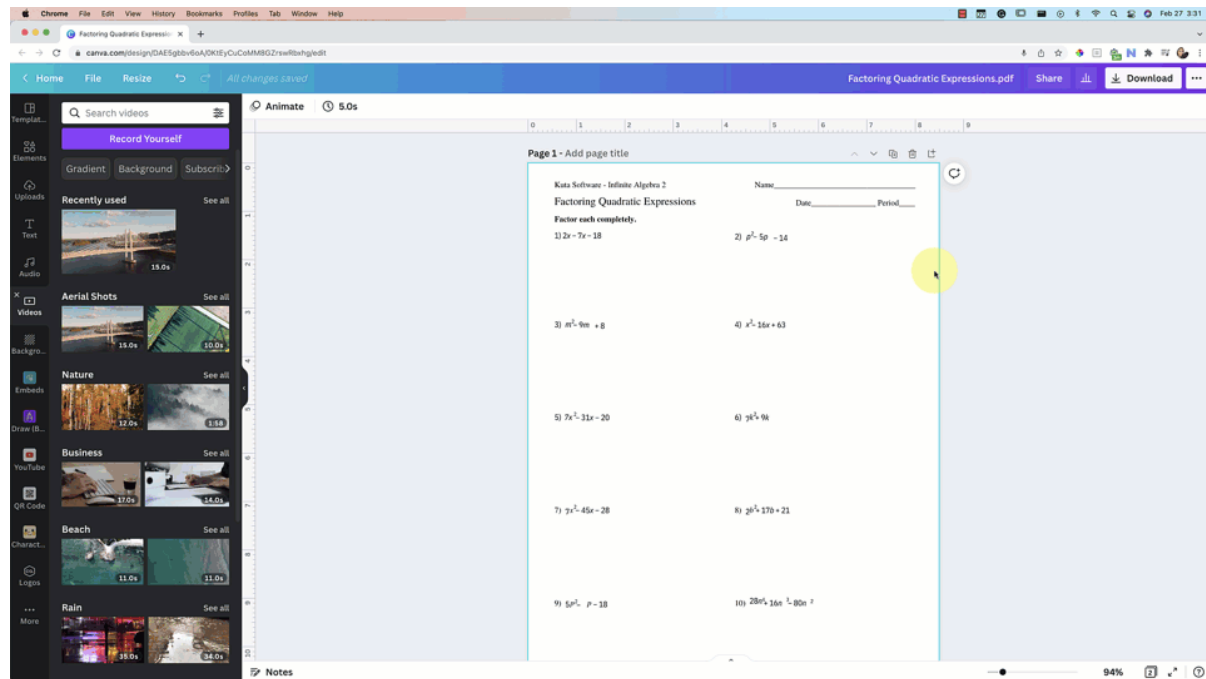
Let's talk about creating an instructional video where your goal is to review solutions to a worksheet you've assigned. You might want to make a video for students to use as they are working through problems (ie: if they get stuck, they can consult the video) or use it to self-check their work after an initial attempt.

First off, you can easily upload a PDF into Canva by clicking on **Create a design** and choosing the **Import file** option:



If you've never used the [PDF import tool in Canva](#), you are in for a real treat because Canva creates an editable version for you so that you can modify text directly in Canva! Once you have the base of your lesson plan all ready to go, it's time to create your instructional video.

Since we are going to be doing a screen share within Canva, here's a tip for you — open your same Canva project in two different windows. We know this sounds like strange advice, but you're going to be “recording” in one window and “drawing” in the other window.



([link to full size GIF](#); [link to small GIF](#))

Left window:

On the left window, select the **Video** tab.

Right window:

On the right window, select the **Draw** tab.

Left window:

With the **Video** tab selected, choose **Record Yourself**. Choose **Screen share > Window** and then choose the other Canva window that you have open. Press **Record** when you are ready.

Right window:

With the **Draw** tab selected and your recording started, pick your desired writing tool, adjust the size, and choose your preferred color. Then, it is time to get to drawing anywhere on your Canva creation. Canva's recording tool will pick up everything you write on the screen along with your voice.

*Pro tip: As you use Canva's Draw tool to write on your PDF, we suggest that you press the **Done** key between problems or sections. The reason for this is that each drawing will then be created as its own object that you can resize and move around.*

When you are done recording, end the recording and press **Save and exit**. You'll see your video recording added to your Canva. We advise adding an additional page either to the beginning or end of your document (depending on the purpose of the video) and moving the video to a page of its own.

That's it! When you share this Canva with your students, your students will be able to play, pause, and rewind the video recording as needed. There is no need to upload the video to another platform, no need to worry about YouTube being blocked or ad blockers, and no need to assign multiple links as everything is all in one place for you and your students. Many educators find they can communicate so much more clearly through video and it adds a layer of personalization to the content they are creating.

Find more inspiration and step-by-step instruction for getting going with Canva in your classroom by engaging with this free mini-course by Stacey: [Design, sketch, and draw with Canva for Education](#).