Tips for Making a Great Lesson Video

Make it short
Cover only one or two skills in each lesson video. Even if students need to watch more than one video, it will chunk information better and increase the likelihood that you can reuse the video in other settings.

Make it personal
Add screencasts of yourself into the lesson video. Your face will create another focal point on the screen to capture the students' attention. Also, students feel more connected to lessons that include the instructor rather than a disembodied voice. Remember that even though you might be camera shy, your students watch you talk all the time so it is nothing new to them.

Expect the learning curve
Making your own lesson videos can be intimidating and difficult at first, but it will get better! Don't expect a perfect video on your first attempt; you'll improve with practice.

Helpful Flipped Classroom Practices

You do and they do
Create something for the students to do as they watch the lesson video. Having an activity sends the message that students can't be passive while they are viewing, and the right activity can help them process the information in the lesson.

Examples:
· Have the students take notes or code along with you.
· Add a question to the lesson for the students to answer in an online forum.
· Use Google Forms to create a 10-question quiz that grades itself.

Build in collaboration
Students can feel isolated in a classroom where they are learning through videos. Be mindful of this and build in opportunities for them to work together.

Examples:
· Create a starter that begins a quick, focused class discussion.
· Conclude class time with a collaborative activity like pair programming or debugging.
· Build in a day of offline activities to break up a programming unit.

You're still their teacher
Sometimes students ask me to show them something that I have already covered in a lesson video. Often these requests have more to do with personal attention than learning the skill itself. Giving a student time and attention when they ask for it, and not just re-directing them to a video, can help develop a stronger relationship. Remember that the lesson videos are only a resource, not a replacement for you as a teacher.

Note: Lesson videos should not replace every computer science lesson
Some units work better as live lessons. Often lessons that cover more conceptual material, as opposed to particular skills, are better as live lesson.