Screencasts with Significant Amount of Handwriting

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**Description:** I want to provide students with mini-lectures with voiceover that are similar to Khan Academy lessons with a good bit of handwriting.

**Options:**

**Windows and Mac Users:**

This can be tricky. Salman Khan uses the following setup on the Windows OS. The site also provides recommendations for alternatives on Mac OS. Our experience is that it takes a good deal of practice to learn to write quickly and legibly, as well as make good use of screen space. It can be done, but prepare for a bit of a learning curve.

**Tablet Users:**

We prefer an iPad and stylus for this scenario. Explain Everything seems to be the best-of-breed for iPads or Android tablets. The app integrates nicely with Dropbox, Google Drive, and BOX, so you can pull PowerPoints, PDFs, and other files into the app and publish your videos easily. Videos are published in .mp4 format, which means you can play the video on almost any device and edit and enhance in desktop applications like Camtasia and ScreenFlow. Explain Everything also provides robust editing features on the iPad app. You can splice out mistakes and add highlights, arrows, etc., after you’ve recorded the lecture— all on the tablet.

**Equipment Needs:**

- Laptop/Desktop: A wacom tablet for handwriting, SmoothDraw or Autodesk Sketchbook Express (the app in which you do the writing), and Camtasia or ScreenFlow for recording the lecture. A USB microphone headset. The headset keeps your voice at an even volume even if your head moves since the mic is attached to you. We have had good luck with the Logitech H390 headset (wired $25-$30) and Plantronics 995H (wireless $35-$50).
- Tablet: iPad with Explain Everything and stylus. We’ve had good luck with the Adonit Jot Pro.

**Distribution Options:** See Screencast Based on PowerPoint page.

**Considerations:**

**Desktop / Laptop:**

- If you want to capture handwriting over slides and other applications (beyond just writing in SmoothDraw or another paint program), check out Ink2Go. Ink2Go is made for Mac and Windows and allows desktop users to make annotations on top of any desktop application.

**Tablet:**

- The Adonit Jot Pro writes really well but because of its plastic tip, the internal iPad microphone picks up a good bit of tapping. If the added sounded is problematic, you may want to consider a rubber-tipped stylus.
- Editing in Explain Everything takes a little getting used to; however, once you realize that audio and edits are linked to specific slides, the interface becomes easier to manage.