

TITLE: Sections...What are they Good For? Absolutely Everything.

Hello, my name is Bill Gaal and I'm an Audio Producer at CTL. Today I'd like to share a story with you about an often overlooked, but vital part of your lecture, The Section.

What makes these segments of a lecture so important, and why do you need them? Let's start with the story of a student named Alex. Alex is a busy person, busy with school and busy with life. When Alex loads up a lecture, they see's that it is broken up into a series of short learning chunks, which we call Sections. At first glance, this seems much less intimidating than a long 1-hour lecture with no breaks! And because each Section has a unique identifying title, Alex can move back and forth through the material much more quickly when searching for a specific topic.

Now let's look at Sections from the faculty's point of view. When developing their lecture, they realized that dividing their content up into 10-to-20-minute Sections provided an opportunity to fine tune the content in a way that they hadn't considered before. The lecture presentation becomes more content focused with meaningful learning, and because each Section was recorded in a 'modular' fashion, the Section can now be a "stand alone" and be used for other courses if needed or requested.

There's an additional bonus to Sections. If you need to update or revise your lecture for a future offering, you may not need to re-record the entire lecture, you may just need to update the Section. Much easier, much less time consuming.

These are just a couple of tips from my experience as an Audio Producer with the Center for Teaching and Learning, which illustrate the importance and power of Sections within a lecture. There are other benefits to breaking your lecture into Sections, and your Instructional Designer can discuss those with you. But the bottom line is that Sections matter! Better teaching, better learning...better online lectures.

Sections...What are they good for? Absolutely Everything.