

# Audio Description Decision Tree

The following details are helpful for determining whether audio descriptions are needed.

Does the video contain educationally important visual information?

No ———▶ | AD Not Needed

Yes  
▼

Is all educationally important visual information already conveyed in narration or dialogue?

Yes ———▶ | AD Not Needed

No  
▼

Would a blind or low-vision student miss key instructions, procedures, content, data, or outcomes?

No ———▶ | AD Not Needed

Yes  
▼

Audio descriptions are required

## Quick Reference

| Content Type                  | Typical Result                                          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Talking-head lecture</b>   | AD usually not needed unless graphics are added         |
| <b>Narrated PowerPoint</b>    | AD often not needed if slide content is limited to text |
| <b>Software demonstration</b> | AD frequently required                                  |
| <b>Assessment video</b>       | Frequently requires AD                                  |
| <b>Data visualization</b>     | Usually requires description of charts and findings     |

## Audio Description Helpful Tips

The recommended best practices for creating accessible video for blind and low-vision viewers include describing what is happening in the video as if you are recording a podcast or are on the radio, rather than recording video. In other words, assume that all of your viewers are only listening, and not seeing the visuals.