

▶▶ BEST FOOT FORWARD PROJECT

What is the key to implementing successful observations using video technology?

The technology should be so easy that it fades into the background of the process. Teachers and administrators should spend little to no time fixing devices or struggling to capture angles. That's why the research staff on the Best Foot Forward Project is creating a video observation toolkit with the logistical and technological resources needed to implement video observations for teacher development, evaluation, or research.

In the meantime, learn more about the technology we are using in the study this year.

Video Platform



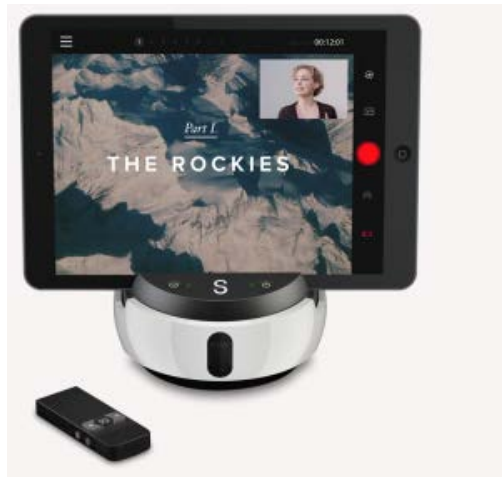
The Best Foot Forward Project uses [Bloomboard](#) to host its video observations. Special features include the ability to watch and tag a video using the state or district rubric, as well as comment directly on the footage. The system classifies and categorizes evidence by standard for easy coaching and evaluation.

Video Equipment



Teachers in the study use the [thereNow Insight Mini](#), a low cost-device with two movable web cams and three audio streams, including a wireless teacher microphone. The thereNow mini is a secure device that allows the teacher to record with an encrypted, personal key and upload directly through the Ethernet.

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Teachers and schools are outfitted with another device- a tablet and [SWIVL system](#), which includes two wireless microphones. Swivl is a robotic mobile accessory, app and cloud hosting service that makes delivering presentations, lessons and lectures more dynamic and recording it on video easy. These units are mounted on traditional tripods and may be paired with wide-angle lenses when needed.



Observations are not just about what teachers are doing. Observers want to assess whether students are learning and behaving. This year, we are using the [olloclip](#), a wide angle lens that easily clips onto a tablet camera to capture a greater breadth of the room. Olloclip started as a Kickstarter campaign and is now sold at Apple stores across the country.

Contact bff@gse.harvard.edu with additional questions about selecting and managing video technology for the classroom.