

The Livestream Class Format

Welcome to the Varsity Tutors' livestream platform, powered by BigMarker. This platform allows classes to seamlessly engage hundreds of students at a time, enabling students from over 500 school district partnerships to access the highest quality educational and enrichment experiences.



Livestream Class Features:

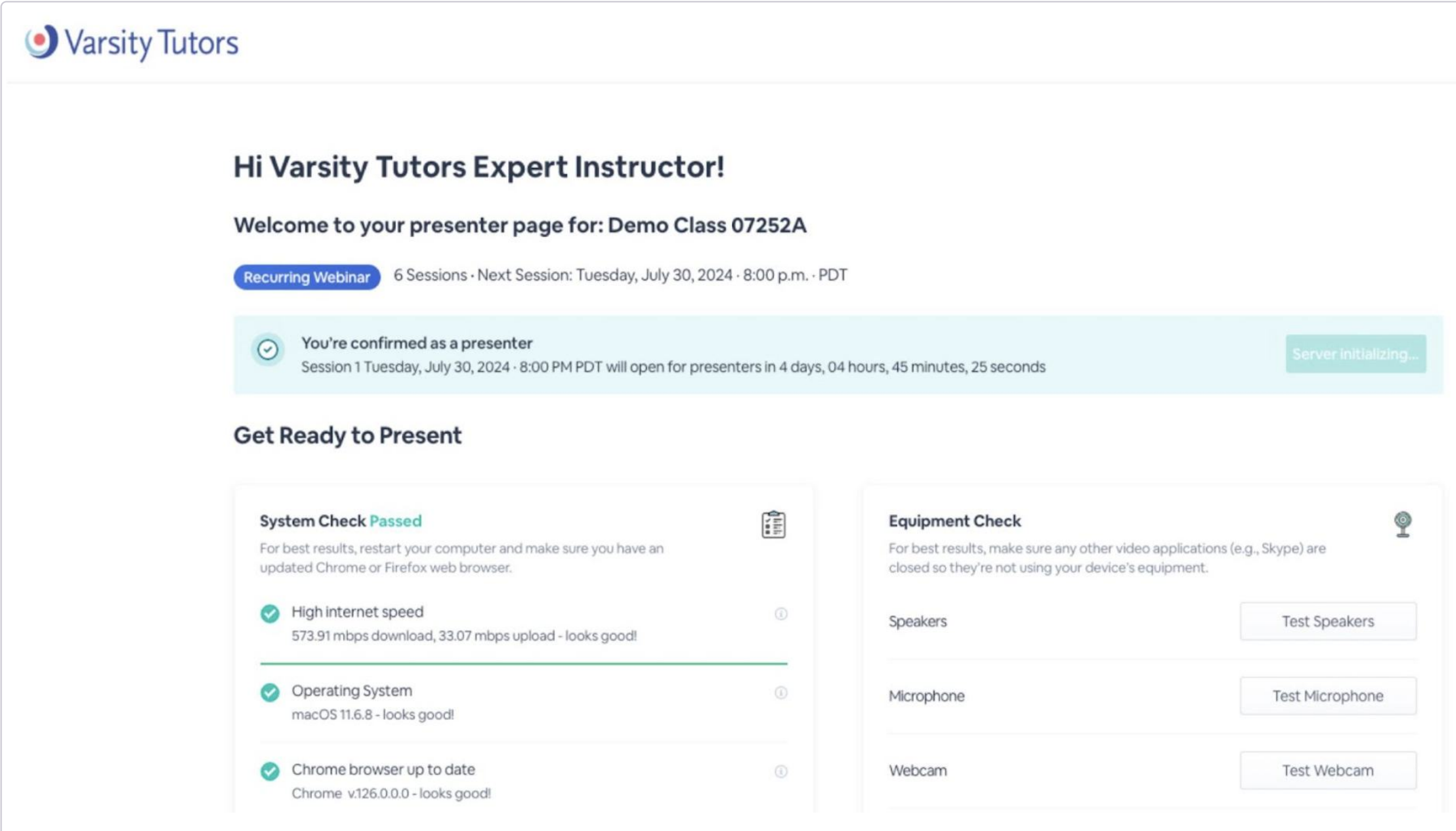
- Students can ask questions and participate through chat.
- Messages are private and only visible to the instructor.
- Instructors use a combination of audio, video, screenshare, and whiteboard tools to teach.
- Students do not use microphones or cameras.
- Instructor's video and screenshare have a 10-second delay to ensure smooth streaming for large groups.

Presenter Links

Each class includes two links, one for students and one for the presenter. Instructors often receive the student correspondence for their classes, so it can be helpful to have familiarity with how to find the instructor-specific presenter links.

Presenter links include the string *invited_presenter_id* toward the end of the URL prior to the final numeric code.

When an instructor follows a presenter link, they should arrive at a presenter-specific page that includes the ability to test audio/visual settings and preview the classroom:




Varsity Tutors


Hi Varsity Tutors Expert Instructor!

Welcome to your presenter page for: **Demo Class 07252A**



Recurring Webinar 6 Sessions · Next Session: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 · 8:00 p.m. · PDT



 **You're confirmed as a presenter**
 Session 1 Tuesday, July 30, 2024 · 8:00 PM PDT will open for presenters in 4 days, 04 hours, 45 minutes, 25 seconds Server initializing...



Get Ready to Present


System Check Passed 

For best results, restart your computer and make sure you have an updated Chrome or Firefox web browser.

-  **High internet speed**
573.91 mbps download, 33.07 mbps upload - looks good! 

-  **Operating System**
macOS 11.6.8 - looks good! 

-  **Chrome browser up to date**
Chrome v.126.0.0.0 - looks good! 

Equipment Check 

For best results, make sure any other video applications (e.g., Skype) are closed so they're not using your device's equipment.

Speakers Test Speakers

Microphone Test Microphone

Webcam Test Webcam

If instructors arrive at a page that does not identify them as a presenter, and does not allow a classroom preview, they have likely used the student-facing link and should return to their email to find their presenter link.

Student Interactivity

Students have three key tools to engage with the class:

- **Q&A:** Submit questions at the top right of the classroom page.
- **Emojis:** React to the lesson with emojis, located beneath the video player.
- **Polling:** Participate in polls, accessible at the top right next to the Q&A feature.

The screenshot displays the Varsity Tutors Livestream Class interface. The main area is in 'Presenter View' for 'Demo Class 07252A'. It features a slide titled 'SECTION 2: SECRETS OF SAT GRAMMAR' with a sub-heading 'Compare & Prioritize' and a question: 'Which differences should you focus on first?'. The slide content includes a paragraph about the general consensus among life scientists and a multiple-choice question. Below the slide is a video player showing a presenter. To the right is a 'Q&A' panel with tabs for 'Chat', 'Q&A', 'Polls', and 'Handouts'. The 'Q&A' tab is active, showing a search bar and a list of questions. One question is visible: 'This is a great class!' with 0 votes and options to 'Publish', 'Answer', and 'Delete'. At the bottom, there is a 'Show Slide Navigator' and a 'Remove' button. The interface also includes a 'Drawing' tool and a 'Full' screen button.

With the Q&A panel, all student messages will thread into one convenient location for instructors to view. Students do not have access to the Chat function.

Why? Private chat creates several boxes for instructors to juggle, and public chat encourages spammers. The Q&A function ensures that instructors can view one thread throughout their events, and students cannot see one another's comments.

Q&A and emoji options are present in front of all participants for the duration of the event, easily accessed in a single click.

Polls need to be created and enabled one-by-one by the instructor:

Create poll ✕

Multiple Choice NPS Score Short Answer

Add a question and up to 11 answer choices below.

Show a different question (Use original question above for reporting and CRM integration)

Response options: Customize the maximized poll colors

[+ ADD ANSWER CHOICE](#)

Audience can select one answer Audience can select multiple answers Unlimited ▼

Due to the time and effort required to create poll questions, students generally prefer when instructors:

- Display poll questions on slide decks or screenshares.
- Encourage students to type the letter choices (A/B/C/D/E) or use emojis to indicate their answers.
- Use a single A/B/C/D/E poll for multiple questions instead of creating new polls throughout the class.

10-Second A/V Delay

Please note that students consume the instructor's audio, video, and screenshare on a 10-second delay. For this reason, questions that require lengthy responses can lead to extended periods of "dead air" in the class while instructors wait for students to hear, then think about, then type a lengthy response. For this reason, students favor certain instructional techniques:

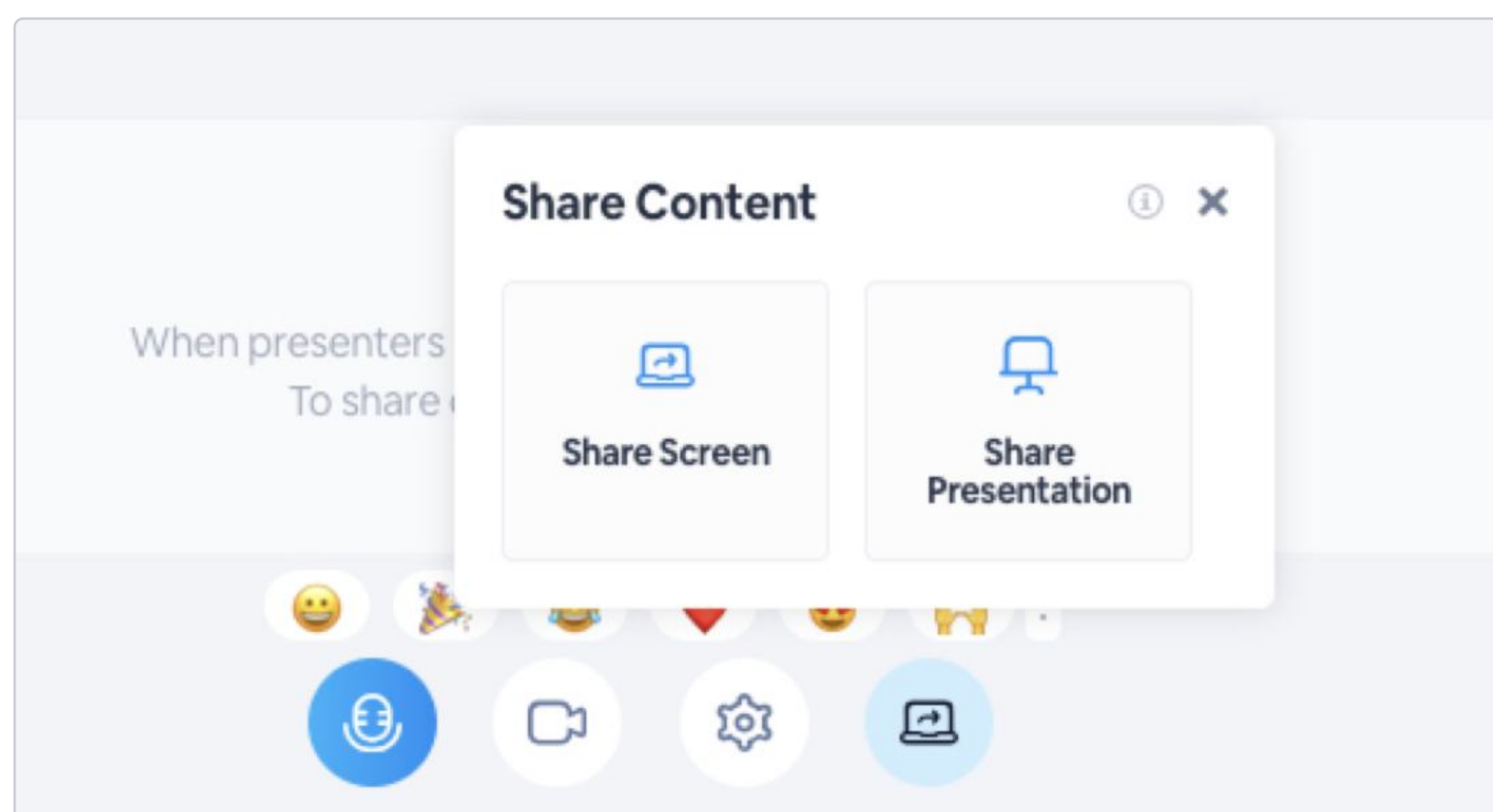
- **"Active wait time"** – an instructor talks through the 10-second delay by rephrasing the question, indicating that answers are coming in ("I see answers starting to come in"), encouraging participation ("I love hearing what you all have to say so let's hear it"), and anticipating answers ("I bet a lot of you are thinking about XYZ...")
- **Short-answer questions** – questions can either be answered in a few words or are made multiple choice so that students can answer without extensive typing
- **Questions on screen** – when students can read questions on the screen, they can begin responding often even more quickly than the instructor can finish asking them, thereby reducing the wait time
- **The "false start"** – because students cannot see one another's responses, an instructor can begin discussing the answers they expect students to type before they even see actual responses, thereby keeping the lesson moving and encouraging a culture of participation

Screenshare

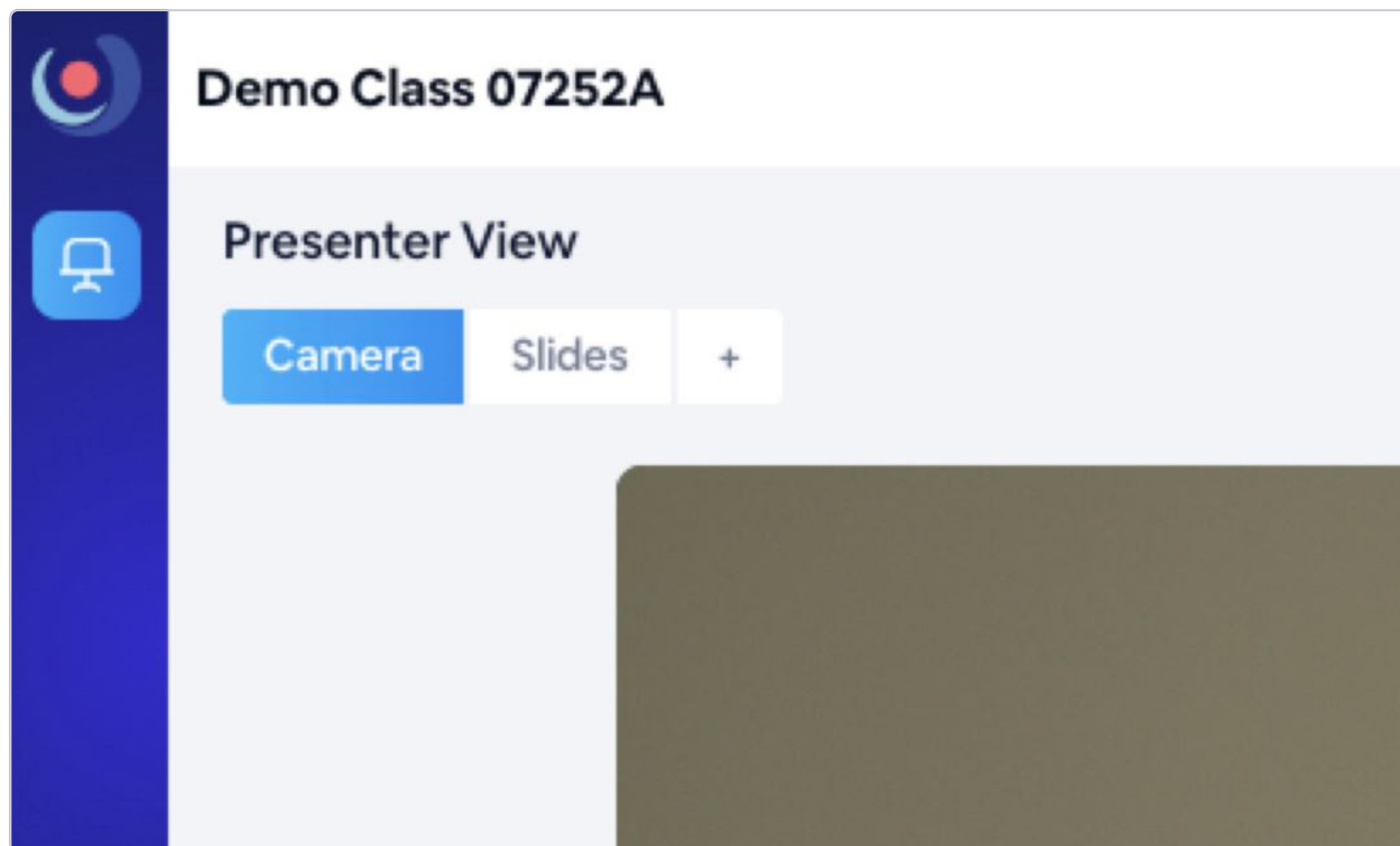
Instructors can share their screen in three ways:

- Share an active screen or window.
- Share a file or presentation (with drawing/annotation capabilities).
- Create a blank whiteboard (with drawing/annotation capabilities).

Screensharing can be activated in two places, with one option being the Share button located below the video player and emojis.



And the other is at the upper left corner of the screen, where instructors can easily toggle between types of screenshares and video feeds:



Exceeding Student Expectations

Because student microphones and video feeds are turned off, and ***they cannot see one another's chat messages***, it's up to you to make the class "come alive." These elements have become key components of the student experience.



Well-Prepared Visuals

Whether you're conducting a demonstration with real-world objects on camera or working through a thoughtful slide deck, visual aids are a key difference between a lecture and an immersive learning experience.



Carefully constructed lines of questioning

Students will participate whenever you ask them to, but open-ended questions take time to respond to and you won't be able to see responses in real-time. So consider regularly asking short-answer questions so that students can participate easily and frequently, and you can easily "summarize" the answers you expect to see (e.g. "I see a lot of people picking A and B but not a lot of C" — students don't, and shouldn't, know that their answers take that long to get to you, but if you know what they'll likely answer you can summarize the results before you even have them).



Encourage & honor student participation

Students love to answer questions and offer ideas, so even though you won't see those messages in real-time, you can acknowledge and encourage participation with regular phrases like "great answers, everybody," and "you all have such great ideas."



High-quality production value

When instructors are camera-ready with a clean background, quiet environment, and decent microphone, students enjoy an immersive, distraction-free learning environment.



End-of-class Q&A

You won't see student questions and comments in real-time, but your moderator will provide you with a list on a delay. If you plan to answer student questions at the end of class, you will have accumulated a list of questions to address by that point.

The large group class format hosted a Guinness World Record setting class for "largest online science class" in 2020 taught by TV's Mayim Bialik.

