

Bring your Own Teleprompter

If you're having trouble making PowerPoint's *Presenter View* work for you in a Zoom session, there is a cheap and easy alternative: provide your own teleprompter. Here's how.

Put your speaker's notes into a word processing document.

Open it on your PC/Mac before the Zoom class, just as you open PowerPoint before class.

Adjust its size, so that it is a relatively wide but short window. Like this:

One of our first experiences with virtual reality as kids was the View Master. Using the same techniques as the Stereoscope we just looked at, it showed us an object photographed by two cameras a few inches apart. Each eye saw one of the images, and our brain combined them into a single—seemingly three dimensional—image.

Once you are Sharing your screen in Zoom, open this document and “drag” it to the top center of your screen. Then, as you read it, you will appear to be looking right into the camera.

You can see it and scroll it, but your class cannot, since it is not the “screen” you are “sharing”.

Since it is a live word processing document (in a small window) you can also use it to take notes, if you're asked a question that you can't answer in class but agree to address later. (Just remember to Save this revised version when you close it!)

--Al Carlson

1-10-21