



Back to School with Screencastify

Guide





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01

Getting Started: Back-to-School Checklist

1.1 | Introduction



A new school year brings new goals, fresh routines, and opportunities to try powerful tools that support students in and out of the classroom. Whether you're introducing new concepts, building relationships, or streamlining communication, Screencastify can help you start strong.

This checklist is designed to help teachers and school leaders kick off the year with purpose—**using video to connect, clarify, and inspire**.



1.2 | Teacher Checklist: Back-to-School Engagement

Engage Students in the First Weeks

Welcome Students with a Short Video

Record a 1–2 minute intro to share your personality, classroom vibe, and excitement for the year ahead.

Assign a “Get to Know You” Video via Submit

In the first week, use Submit to let students record short intros about themselves—great for building connection early.

Record First-Week Procedures and Expectations

Save time by screencasting directions: classroom routines, how to navigate the LMS, how to turn in assignments, etc.

Add Quizzes to Quick-Review Lessons

Use Quizzes to check prior knowledge on key topics or reinforce new material from week one.

Use Live Learning for Syllabus Walkthroughs or Rules

Watch videos together with your class and pause to discuss rules, grading, or how the year will be structured.

Engage Families from Day One

Send a Welcome Message Home

Use video to introduce yourself, share your goals for the year, and explain how families can get involved.

Create a “How to Support Your Child” Video

In week 2–3, send a screencast showing parents how to check homework, view grades, or contact you.

Record Project or Homework Overviews

If assigning your first project, record a walkthrough for both students and families—helps reduce confusion and set clear expectations.

Begin a Regular Family Video Update

By the end of the first month, establish a cadence—short monthly or biweekly video updates to share class progress and key reminders.

1.3 | Admin Checklist: Back-to-School Engagement

Engage Teachers During the First Month

Principal's Welcome Video for Staff

Set a positive tone with a personal message to staff—welcoming them and outlining priorities for the year.

Onboard New Teachers with Video Guides

Create short videos explaining internal systems, walkthroughs of platforms, or quick policy overviews.

Model Video Use in Your Communication

Send weekly updates to staff via Screencastify instead of long emails—it's easier to digest and adds a personal touch.

Kick Off a Shared Resource Folder

Invite teachers to upload any helpful videos they make—routines, lesson intros, parent comms, etc.

Celebrate Early Wins with a Screencast Spotlight

Share examples of how teachers are using Screencastify creatively and celebrate them at your first staff meeting.

Engage Families at the School Level

Principal's Welcome Video for Families

Introduce yourself, share key info about the year ahead, and build a culture of transparency and communication.

Screencasts for School Tech & Tools

Record how-to videos on logging into the LMS, checking attendance, or school policies—useful for new families.

Use Video for Back-to-School Night Previews

If families can't attend in person, record overviews of what they would have seen: curriculum, values, events calendar, etc.



02

Using Screencastify In the Classroom



The first few weeks of school are the perfect time to establish habits and tools that will save time all year. This section explores practical ways to use Screencastify's core features—Record, Submit, Quizzes, and Live Learning—to simplify instruction, encourage student voice, and support formative assessment from day one.

2.1 | Submit

The first week back to school is a delicate balance of excitement, anxiety, and endless possibilities. Teachers are juggling new faces, learning names, and trying to create an environment where every student feels valued and heard.

Screencastify's [Submit feature](#) offers a new approach to those crucial first weeks. By allowing students to record video responses at their own pace, you're giving them the time and space to share their genuine selves. This feature transforms one-way assignments into meaningful dialogue opportunities, helping you understand not just what students know, but who they are as individuals. Here's a few ways you can get started:

1 - Student Introduction Time Capsules

Create a Submit link where students record 2-3 minute videos introducing themselves, sharing their summer highlights, and expressing what they're most excited or nervous about for the new school year. This approach gives every student an equal voice, regardless of their comfort level with public speaking.

These videos become precious keepsakes that you can revisit at winter break or year-end to show growth. Students often surprise themselves when they see how much they've changed and learned over the months.

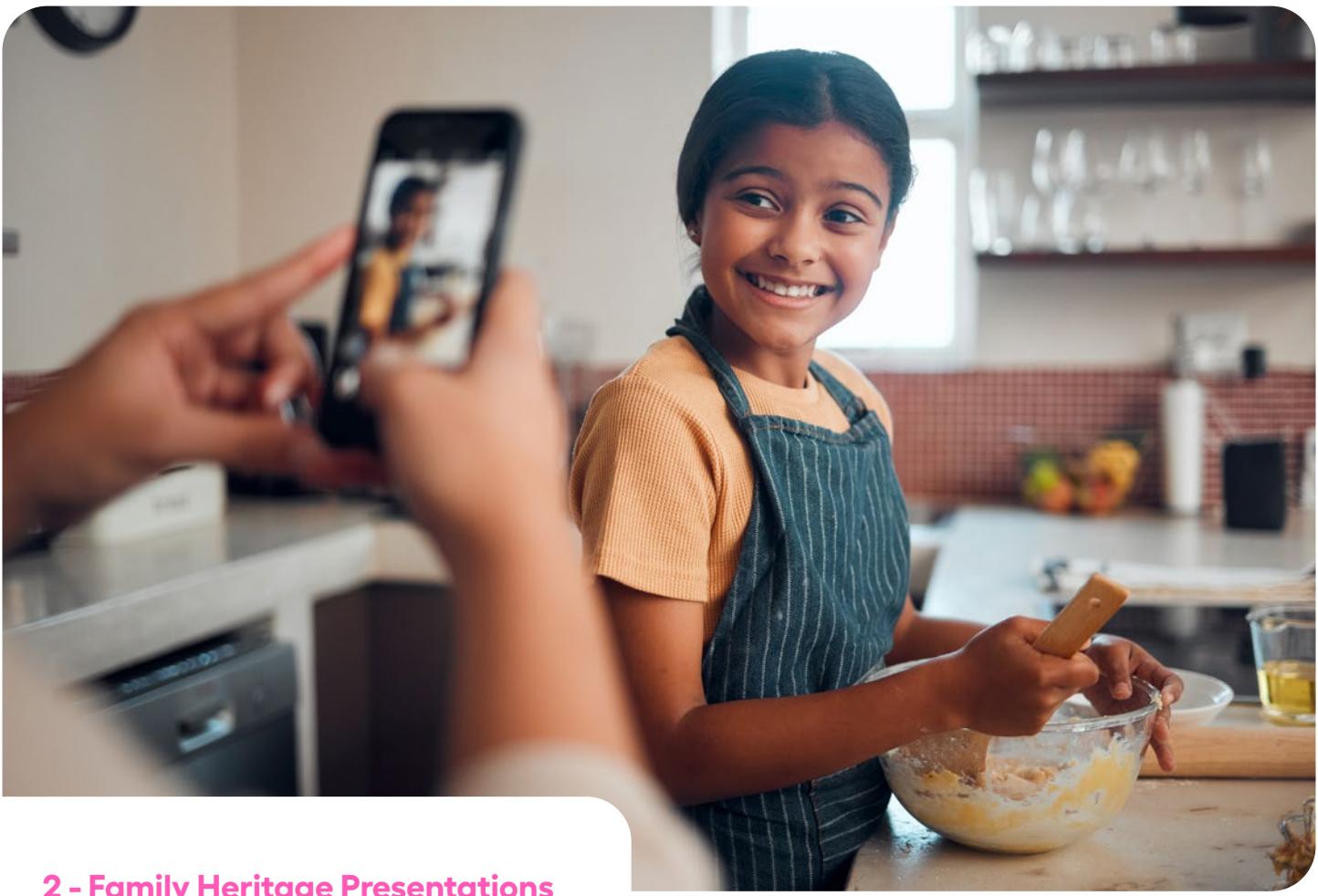


Why This Works:

Quieter students particularly benefit from this format, as they can take time to gather their thoughts and reshoot if needed.

Teacher Advantage:

You'll learn names and personalities quickly, making those first few weeks of relationship building much more efficient than traditional written introductions.



2 - Family Heritage Presentations

Have students create short videos at home showcasing a family tradition, cultural background, or special family recipe. This assignment allows them to bring their home culture into the classroom while building community and celebrating diversity from the very beginning of the year.

Students feel proud of their backgrounds while educating classmates about different cultures, foods, and traditions. These presentations often become conversation starters that last throughout the year.

Why This Works:

Parents often get involved in these videos, strengthening the home-school connection right from the start. You might see grandparents teaching traditional recipes, families explaining holiday customs, or students sharing artifacts that have been passed down through generations.

Teacher Advantage:

These presentations can become the foundation for multicultural celebrations and discussions throughout the year, creating a classroom culture that values diversity.

3 - Show and Tell with Purpose

Transform traditional show and tell into meaningful learning experiences by having students record videos explaining a skill they've mastered over the summer, a book they loved, or a project they undertook. This allows students to demonstrate their learning and growth while building confidence in their abilities.

Unlike quick classroom presentations, students can take time to think through their explanations, resulting in more thoughtful and comprehensive sharing that reveals student interests and talents you might not otherwise discover.

Why This Works:

The format encourages deeper reflection as students articulate their interests and why they matter to them, helping them reflect more effectively.

Teacher Advantage:

You gain valuable insights into student interests and learning styles that can inform instruction throughout the year.



Screencastify's Submit feature transforms those potentially overwhelming first weeks from surface-level introductions into meaningful connections that last all year long. By capturing student voices early and authentically, you're showing them that their stories, backgrounds, and perspectives are valued and important.

As you plan your back-to-school activities, consider how Submit can help you move beyond traditional icebreakers to create lasting connections.

Don't know how to get started? [Click here](#) for everything you need to know about making a Submit assignment.



2.2 | Live Learning

The energy of the first week back to school is infectious, but capturing that energy and channeling it into meaningful learning experiences can be challenging with traditional classroom methods.

[Live Learning](#) transforms your classroom into an interactive hub where every student can participate in real-time. Unlike passive instruction, this feature creates dynamic experiences where students actively engage, ask questions, and contribute to the learning process as it happens.

Here are a few ways you can use this tool as your students return back to school:



1 - AI-Enhanced Read Aloud with Interactive Quiz

Go to the [Premium Library](#) and find a back-to-school themed read aloud. Use AI to enhance it, let AI generate a quiz based on the story, and deliver it as a Live Learning activity where students can participate in real-time responses and discussions.

This combines storytelling with interactive assessment, creating an engaging experience that feels more like entertainment than instruction. Students can respond to questions, make predictions, and discuss themes as the story unfolds.

Why This Works:

The combination of visual storytelling and interactive elements keeps students engaged while the AI-generated quiz ensures comprehension. Students enjoy the multimedia experience and active participation.

Teacher Advantage:

You get a ready-made engaging activity that combines literacy, technology, and assessment in one seamless experience, perfect for building classroom community around shared stories.

2 - Review Back to School Rules

Kick off the year by pulling in a back to school rules video from the Premium Library. Use Live Learning to embed multiple-choice questions that reinforce key classroom rules and routines—like how to speak in class, line up, or treat materials. Students respond in real time as they watch.

Why This Works:

The game show format feels playful and familiar, making rule review feel more like a fun quiz than a lecture. Students stay engaged while learning what's expected of them.

Teacher Advantage:

You don't need to create a thing—just drop in questions and hit play. You'll reinforce classroom norms and instantly see who's grasped the expectations (and who might need a reminder).



+ Add Question at 00:38

Settings

Multiple Choice

What should you do when you want to speak in class?

1 Point(s)

Raise your hand and wait to be called on.

Shout out your answer.

Wait until the teacher looks at you.

Talk to your friend first.

Delete Edit

Multiple Choice



3 - Virtual Classroom Scavenger Hunt

Turn your classroom or school tour into an interactive adventure using Live Learning. Play a pre-recorded video (of your classroom, hallway, or key school spaces), and embed multiple-choice questions that prompt students to spot locations like the library, nurse's office, or supply bins—or solve simple clues and riddles based on what they see.

Why This Works:

It transforms a routine tour into a game, helping students learn their environment through curiosity and play—especially valuable for new students or those in a new building.

Teacher Advantage:

You make orientation fun and efficient while instantly identifying which students are already comfortable navigating the space and who might need more support.

Live Learning brings the excitement of real-time interaction to your back-to-school activities. By engaging students actively in orientation, procedure learning, and rule-setting, you're creating a collaborative classroom culture that will benefit everyone all year long.

The immediate feedback and interactive nature of Live Learning helps students feel more connected to their learning environment and more confident in their new classroom community from day one. Set up your first live learning quiz using tips featured [here](#).



2.3 | Quizzes

Introduction

Assessment during the first week of school can feel overwhelming for both teachers and students. Traditional quizzes might seem too formal, while informal check-ins can miss important information you need to plan effective instruction.

Screencastify's [Quiz feature](#) offers the perfect middle ground—engaging, interactive assessments that feel more like games than tests. These quizzes help you gather crucial information about your students while keeping the atmosphere light and welcoming.

1 - “Getting to Know You” Interest Inventory

Record a short, friendly video introducing yourself and asking students about their interests, learning preferences, and comfort levels with school subjects. Embed multiple-choice or short-answer quiz questions after each prompt (e.g., “Which subject do you enjoy most?” or “What motivates you in class?”).

Students enjoy sharing about themselves in this format, and the information helps you plan engaging lessons throughout the year. You'll discover student passions that can inform project choices and discussion topics.

Why This Works:

Students feel comfortable sharing personal information in a quiz format that feels private and non-judgmental. The structured questions help shy students express themselves more easily than open-ended discussions.

Teacher Advantage:

You gather comprehensive data about student interests and learning preferences that would take weeks to discover through observation alone, allowing you to personalize instruction from the start.

2 - Syllabus + Subject Preview Video

Instead of handing out a paper syllabus, create a short video walking students through your course structure, expectations, and a sneak peek at upcoming topics. Embed quiz questions throughout to check for understanding (e.g., “What percentage of your grade is participation?” or “Which unit will we start with?”).

Why This Works:

Students stay more engaged with video + questions than with text-heavy docs. It helps ensure key info doesn’t get missed in the blur of back-to-school week.

Teacher Advantage:

You reinforce expectations and check for comprehension up front—plus, you can reuse this year after year with simple edits.

3 - Classroom Culture and Expectations Check

Use a video (either self-recorded or pulled from the Screencastify Premium Library) that presents common classroom situations—like turning in late work, lining up, or Chromebook use. Include scenarios that test comprehension of consequences and appropriate responses like: “What should you do if you’re late to class?” or “How should you ask to go to the bathroom?” This ensures students have absorbed crucial information before you move into academic content. Students can review and retake sections they struggle with, building confidence in their understanding.



Why This Works:

Students can work at their own pace and review challenging concepts without feeling embarrassed. The scenario-based format helps them apply rules to real situations they’ll encounter.

Teacher Advantage:

You can identify which procedures need reinforcement and which students might need additional support with expectations, preventing issues before they arise.

4 - “How We Learn” Style Survey Video Quiz

Record a short video walking students through different learning environments and strategies: group work vs. solo tasks, digital tools vs. paper notebooks, visual vs. auditory learning, etc. Then embed quiz questions asking students to reflect on what works best for them, like: “When do you feel most focused?” or “Which of these helps you remember something best?”.

Why This Works:

It helps students reflect on their own learning preferences early in the year—and gives you a quick way to differentiate instruction.

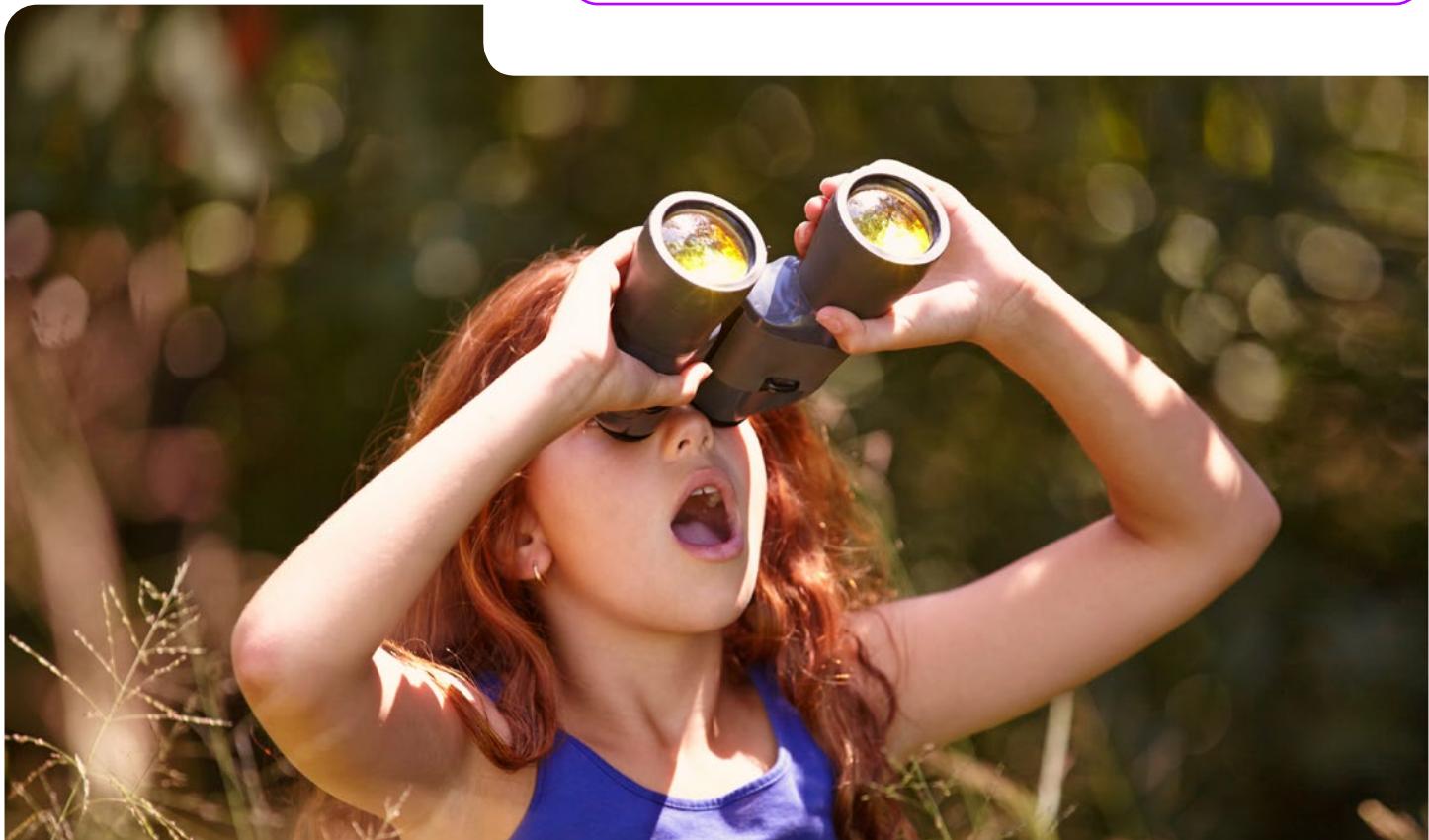
Teacher Advantage:

You gather meaningful data to shape how you group students, structure activities, and support different learning styles—all in one short activity.

Quizzes don’t have to be stressful—they can be welcoming, informative, and even fun. By using Screencastify’s Quiz feature strategically during back-to-school season, you’re gathering the information you need while keeping students engaged and comfortable in their new learning environment.

The interactive format makes assessment feel less formal while still providing valuable data to inform your teaching decisions throughout the year.

Need help getting started? **Explore more [here](#).**



2.4 | Record and Edit

The first weeks of school set the tone for the entire year, and clear communication is essential for success. However, explaining complex procedures, introducing yourself to families, and creating instructional content can be time-consuming and challenging to do consistently.

Screencastify's Recording feature allows you to create professional, polished content that students and families can access repeatedly. This ensures consistent messaging while saving you time and energy during those busy first weeks.

1 - Personalized Welcome Messages for Students and Families

Record warm introduction videos that you can share before school starts or during the first week. Introduce yourself, your teaching philosophy, and what families can expect from your classroom, creating positive first impressions and reducing anxiety.

These videos can include a virtual tour of your classroom, highlights of exciting upcoming projects, and your approach to communication with families. Students and parents often watch these multiple times, helping them feel more connected to you before school begins.



Why This Works:

Families can watch at their convenience and replay sections they want to review. The personal touch of video creates stronger connections than written communications alone.

Teacher Advantage:

You can craft the perfect message without time pressure, ensuring all important information is included while maintaining a warm, welcoming tone that represents you well.



2 - Comprehensive Classroom Procedure Tutorials

Create detailed videos explaining complex classroom routines like lab setup procedures, technology usage protocols, or collaborative group work expectations. Students can reference these repeatedly as they adjust to your classroom environment.

Unlike verbal explanations that students might forget, these videos provide consistent reference points throughout the adjustment period. Students can review specific procedures before activities, reducing confusion and increasing confidence.



Why This Works:

Students can learn at their own pace and revisit challenging procedures without feeling embarrassed about asking for repetition. Visual demonstrations are often clearer than written instructions.

Teacher Advantage:

You eliminate the need to repeatedly explain the same procedures, freeing up class time for instruction while ensuring all students have access to clear, consistent information.

3 - Subject Preview and Excitement Building

Develop engaging videos that preview exciting projects, field trips, experiments, or units coming up this year. Build anticipation and help students understand why your subject matters in their lives and future goals.

These videos can showcase student work from previous years, explain real-world applications of course content, or provide sneak peeks of hands-on activities. Students often share these with family members, extending excitement beyond the classroom.



Why This Works:

Visual previews create anticipation and help students see the relevance of upcoming learning. Students can share their excitement with families, building home support for your curriculum.

Teacher Advantage:

You can showcase the best aspects of your curriculum in a polished format, building student and parent confidence in your program while generating enthusiasm for learning.

4 - Digital Platform and Technology Navigation Guides

Record step-by-step tutorials showing students how to access and use learning management systems, online textbooks, or classroom technology they'll need to master early in the year. Reduce frustration and ensure equitable access to digital learning tools.

These videos can include troubleshooting tips, password reset procedures, and alternative access methods for students with different devices or internet capabilities. Students can work through these tutorials at home with family support.



Why This Works:

Students can pause, rewind, and practice along with the tutorial at their own pace. Family members can also learn the systems, providing better support at home.

Teacher Advantage:

You reduce the number of technology-related questions and issues during class time, while ensuring all students can successfully access digital resources regardless of their tech experience.

Recording allows you to create professional, consistent communication that serves your students and families throughout the school year. By investing time in quality recordings during back-to-school season, you're setting up systems that will save time and improve communication all year long.

These recorded resources become valuable references that students and families can return to whenever they need clarification or support, creating a more confident and prepared learning community.

Get creating today, [here's everything](#) to get you started.



03

Planning & Collaboration Tools



The beginning of the school year isn't just about day-to-day teaching—it's also a time for mapping out units, aligning on goals, and collaborating with your team. These Screencastify tools are designed to support lesson planning, resource sharing, and efficient curriculum development.



3.1 | Shared Folders for Curriculum Teams

Screencastify's [Shared Folders](#) allow educators to store and share videos in one central space, making it easier to collaborate across classrooms and departments.



Back-to-School Applications:

- Create shared folders by grade level or subject for co-planned lessons
- Upload screencasts that explain unit overviews, pacing guides, or project rubrics
- Share model lessons or walkthroughs with new teachers
- Collect training or policy videos for staff onboarding

3.2 | Gemini for Fast Lesson Planning

Gemini for Education uses AI to help you plan, write, and refine your video content quickly.



Back-to-School Applications:

- Generate welcome video scripts or first-lesson outlines
- Brainstorm ideas for content videos or assessments
- Draft prompts for reflection activities or short quizzes
- Create alternate versions of explanations to support differentiated instruction

3.3 | Premium Library for Ready-to-Use Content

The Premium Library offers a curated set of videos created by experienced educators—perfect for jumpstarting instruction or supplementing your own content.

Back-to-School Applications:

- Use pre-made videos to support early lessons while building classroom routines
- Get inspiration from other educators' pacing and tone
- Offer alternate explanations for review or enrichment
- Edit and customize videos to better suit your student needs



3.4 | Screencastify Extension Tips for Teachers

The Screencastify extension for YouTube and Gmail brings video creation right to where you work—helping you turn everyday content into instructional videos without switching tabs or tools.

Back-to-School Applications:

From YouTube:

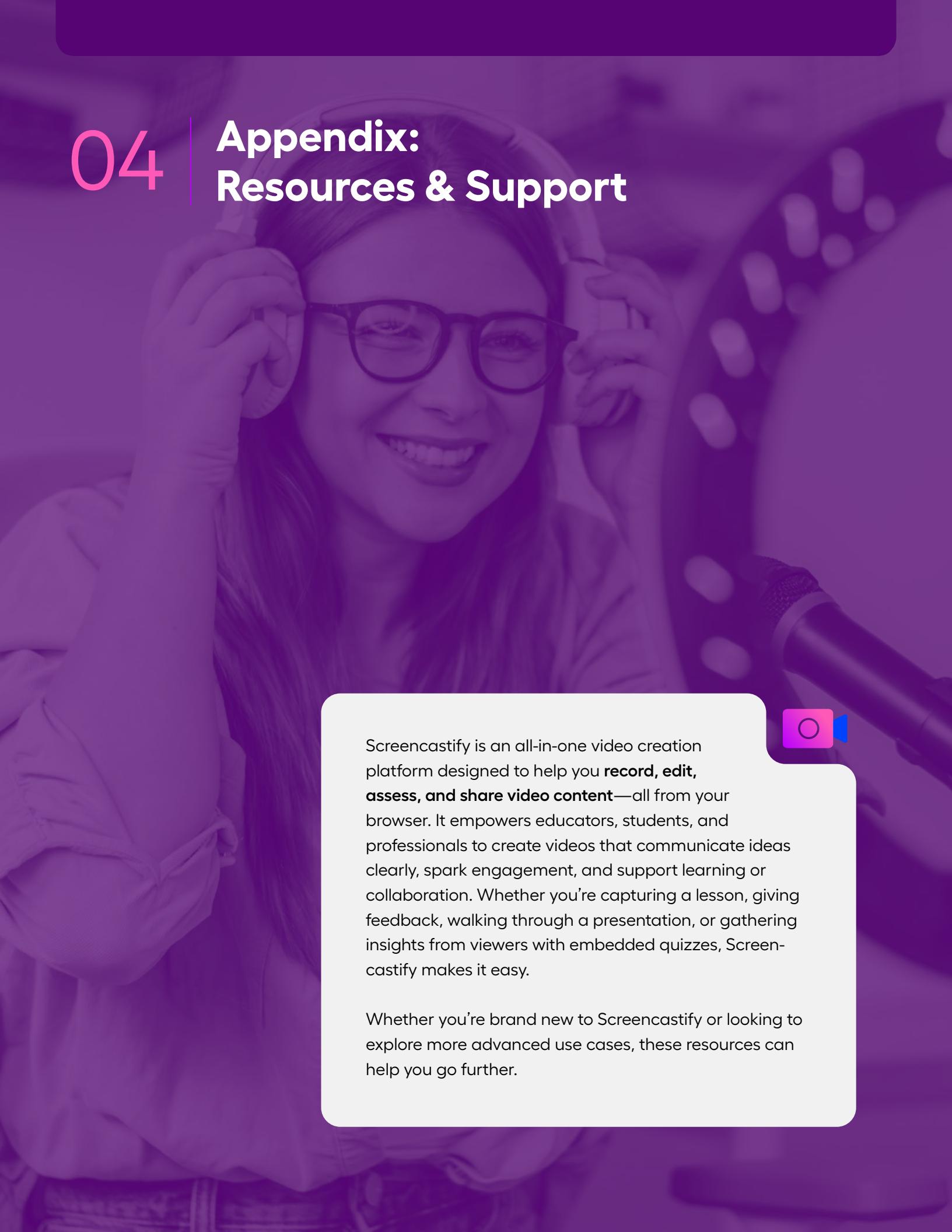
- Instantly **pull in a YouTube video** to Screencastify and layer in your own narration, context, or instructions
- Create **video lessons with built-in guidance**—pause and add explanations, prompts, or questions as students watch
- Build a curated playlist of videos enhanced with your voice, aligned to your curriculum

From Gmail:

- Turn any **email into a video script**—use Screencastify to auto-generate a personalized video message from an email draft
- Record and send **welcome videos** to families or quick updates to staff, straight from your inbox
- Use it for more human, high-impact communication—especially during the busy first few weeks of school

04

Appendix: Resources & Support



Screencastify

Screencastify is an all-in-one video creation platform designed to help you **record, edit, assess, and share video content**—all from your browser. It empowers educators, students, and professionals to create videos that communicate ideas clearly, spark engagement, and support learning or collaboration. Whether you're capturing a lesson, giving feedback, walking through a presentation, or gathering insights from viewers with embedded quizzes, Screencastify makes it easy.



Whether you're brand new to Screencastify or looking to explore more advanced use cases, these resources can help you go further.

4.1 | Quick Start Guide

New to Screencastify? Start here. This short guide covers the essentials to get you **recording, editing, and sharing videos** in minutes.

Includes:



Extension installation instructions



How to start your first recording



Sharing videos with students or colleagues



Overview of Submit, Quizzes, and Live Learning

Perfect for teachers looking to get up and running with confidence during the first week of school.



4.2 | Screencastify Blog & Idea Hub

Find creative classroom ideas, real educator stories, and feature spotlights on [our blog](#). Updated regularly with new strategies and seasonal inspiration.

4.3 | Contact & Support

Need help? Our team is here to support you. Contact us through the [Help Center](#) or reach out to your school's account representative for more personalized support and guidance.

Want to see Screencastify in action?

Schedule a demo at screencastify.com to get started.

