# Section 508 Video Transcript

Section 508. Section 508 is a federal law mandating that all electronic information produced or maintained by the federal government be accessible to people with disabilities. So what does that mean for your course materials? This means that all of the course materials placed online should be accessible to students using assistive technology, as well as provide the necessary features for everyone to complete the assignment. For example, let's say for an assignment, a video is assigned to watch. You upload the video to the web for students to access, but if that video does not have captions or a transcript, then it is not accessible, and that is not acceptable. The captions are necessary for hearing impaired learners to follow along with the video. If there are no captions, that is equivalent to posting a video without sound, and that doesn't sound like a very good assignment. The transcript on the other hand, is necessary for visually impaired learners. A visually impaired learner uses a screen reader to navigate and read the web, if there is a transcript, the learner will have the screen reader read the video to them. The transcript should be timecoded if timing is important to the video. Another example, of a course material posted online that would not be accessible is a scanned PDF. Posting a scanned image of a PDF is equivalent to posting something blank. A scanned PDF is just an image, and a visually impaired learner using a screen reader will not be able to read it. A good way to determine if the PDF is a scanned image, or if it is accessible is highlighting the document text. If you cannot highlight the text, then a screen reader will not be able to pick it up.