



Trent Durham Student Association

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With the shift to online learning, many students are being asked to use Zoom or other video sharing programs to interact with their professors and classmates in real time. Although TDSA recognizes that remote learning aims to replicate in person conversations, there are some limitations that need to be recognized. TDSA stands by students' privacy rights and believes students should not be required to turn on their cameras during online, synchronous learning sessions. Students have numerous reasons for not using video functions: they may be joining from private rooms (i.e. their bedroom); have people they do not wish to show on camera/cannot consent to being on camera (i.e. children); live with mental/physical health concerns that make being on camera inaccessible; have poor internet connection or limited data; or a host of other concerns. TDSA encourages professors to respect these limitations and allow students to make choices for themselves that make online learning the most accessible. Additionally, TDSA calls on Trent University to make a formal policy around the use of cameras that reflects the importance of non-mandatory compliance during all synchronous learning sessions.