Tips for Quality Video

A quiet location is important for obtaining good audio, but in addition, before recording your presentation with a webcam, choose your location carefully paying attention to the light in the location. For best results take advantage of soft lighting that fills the face from the front such as from a window. Too often we use ceiling lights that can cast dark shadows below our eyes. When using room lamps avoid spot lights that create harsh shadows. Use large soft lamps that fill the face from the front.

Avoid bright backgrounds such as bright windows or bright lights behind you that will turn your face into a silhouette.
And when the background is too dark then the face is too bright, washed out, and overexposed.

A pleasing composition uses an appropriate amount of space between the top of the head and the top edge of the frame. Avoid too much “headroom”:
And avoid no “headroom” at all:

Since the webcam window will take up a very small part of the total screen, use close and medium close compositions to emphasize your presence. Wide shots reveal too much clutter and establish too much distance from you and your viewer.
Here are two effective examples of close and medium close compositions: