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10 Ways to Use Video in the Classroom

Many people may think of video in the classroom as delivering a TED talk, *History* or *Discovery Channel* video. This is true and good, but pre-made videos are only the beginning. We've assembled ten examples where the **teacher creates the video** to address a need in the classroom. Check them out! The video is only five minutes long and we've provided discussion points for each example below.

▶ **Watch the video:** See All 10 Ideas in Action

Now, let's take a look closer look.

10. Flip a Lesson

96% of teachers report having at least heard of flipped learning. It's catching on as a way to work more effectively with students. It can be a great goal to have in place as you begin exploring using video.

- Students have anywhere, anytime access to content for review or for moving forward.
- You are freed up to work on the context and application of lessons with students.
- **Discuss:** Which types of lessons would work well as videos?
- **Discuss:** Should all lessons be available on video?

9. Teach When You're Absent

Let's be honest - writing sub plans takes *way* more time than writing normal lesson plans. The level of detail needed is difficult to achieve in writing. So, why not record a video? Rather than leaving wall-of-text notes, leave the day's instructions within a video, for the sub to review. Class is now in session. And no more lost productivity time due to absences.

- No more writing long sub plans.
- There is no confusion about interpreting written notes. Students hear the directions from you.
- **Discuss:** How can the substitute (or students) use video to report *back* on the class time you missed?

8. Personalize Feedback

Time in class is at a premium. It can be difficult to find five or ten minutes to sit down with a student for personalized feedback. Using video, you can give verbal feedback on student work and then send it privately for viewing. It takes the same amount of time

as face-to-face feedback, and they don't have to decipher margin notes.

- Students get longer, helpful explanations of how to improve their work.
- Students have a record of that discussion to refer back to at any point.
- **Discuss**: What kind of feedback do you

usually resort to giving because time is short?

7. Parent and Community Communication

Individualized and personalized feedback

Relationships with the community are just as important as relationships with students in the classroom. Video can be a great way to keep parents and the community-at-large updated on the great things happening in the school.

- Push out communication faster via email.
- You can avoid/reduce printing large mailings.
- It's a great way to take time to explain reasoning behind school policy or announcements.
- **Discuss:** What are some school-wide or class-wide announcements you've made in the past where video could have helped with clarity?

6. Stop Repeating Yourself

What's the *one question* that drives you crazy? That's a great place to make your first video. Tired of answering where to find extra copies? Make a video. Where's homework on the website? Post a video. Reclaim your day one question at a time.

- Post a QR code in your room which links to the answer to common questions.
- Build a library of FAQ videos.

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- Focus your energy on deeper learning.
- **Discuss:** Which question do you want to address with a video?
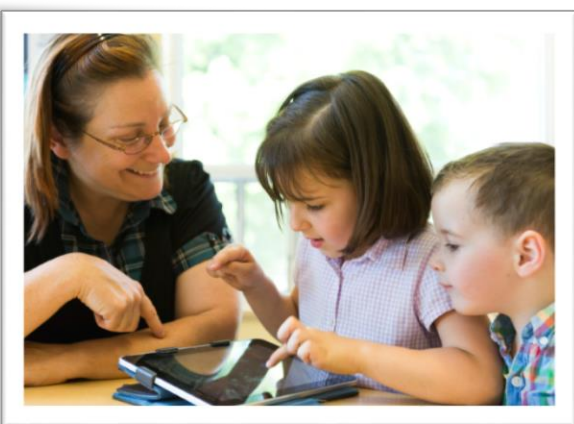
5. Record Experiments
Labs are both a blessing and a curse in the science classroom. They're great for demoing concepts and helping students make connections, but they take a lot of time and resources. If a student misses a lab day, they're hard to make up. Instead, have a lab group record their entire process for absent students to work along with later.

- There's no need to keep indefinitely-long labs set up in the room.
- Record lab instructions & safety information in video to free up more lab time
- Students can hear the conversation, get the data, and see the result of the lab from the day they were out.
- **Discuss:** How can students who were in class that day also benefit from having the lab activity recorded?

4. Authentic Assessment
Paper and pencil assessments have their place in the classroom, but students explaining their learning can also be critical in getting a larger picture of their progress. Streamline group projects by having students create videos and then have a movie screening day rather than stand-and-deliver presentations.

- Projects can be much more creative with the

option of editing video.
- Group work is now preserved to share with parents or other groups looking for inspiration.
- **Discuss:** How many old student projects are on your shelf or in your file cabinet?

3. Create a Professional Development Library
"How do I use *Class Dojo*?" If you're a professional development coordinator, you've probably gotten questions like this sent your way. Record tutorial videos of how-to basics and spend your time with teachers working on implementation in the classroom.

- Face-to-face time is much more effective because you spend time solving problems, not learning how to use a program.
- How-to videos are scalable - you can post them to a school repository for use anytime, anywhere.
- **Discuss:** What about your current professional development do you want to change?
- **Discuss:** How can video help you make that change?

2. Student Video Projects
Video doesn't have to be limited to group assignments or assessments. Sometimes, students want to use video to start a school news channel. Or, let's think bigger: for a student film festival. The possibilities are endless.

- Video projects can help students become creators of their own digital content.
- Students can create a digital portfolio to display their work which can be shared easily, everywhere.
- **Discuss:** Have students approached you with ideas about video projects?
- **Discuss:** How can you collaborate, as staff, to begin using video in new ways across curriculum?

1. Formative Assessment
A key tool in the educator's arsenal is using formative assessment practices to inform instruction and learning. Gathering feedback on a quick embedded quiz can give insight and help identify areas of improvement for students.

- Assessment is done in the moment as a student is learning.
- Misconceptions are identified and addressed before becoming an issue which would typically not show up until the end of the unit.
- **Discuss:** Does formative assessment work in all lessons?
- **Discuss**: How can videos help your parents/students understand formative assessment?