

A practical guide to creating the best learning videos



In the past few years, it has become infinitely easier for busy teachers to create video content. Innovations like iPhones, handheld video cameras and easy editing software mean that it's now easier than ever to create engaging video learning content to share with their students.

Video content underpins the flipped learning model – and in order to get the most from flipping their classrooms, teachers need to think carefully about how their videos are created. Creating videos can be a little intimidating for some teachers, and that's perfectly natural (and it quickly subsides when you see just what a difference your efforts are making to your students' learning!)

There are a number of different approaches that teachers use to produce video content for their flipped classrooms – feel free to pick whichever feels most comfortable to you. These include:

- ✓ Using a camera to record video in the 'traditional' way (i.e. a recording of you explaining a concept in person)
- ✓ Using screen capture software to record what happens on-screen, accompanied by teacher voice commentary
- ✓ Using presentation software (such as Keynote or PowerPoint) to create a presentation that includes teacher voice commentary.

Flipped Tips

1. However you create your video, it's important to make sure the sound is captured effectively. Record a short test video, and play it back to a colleague. Can they hear the words clearly?
2. Use as many illustrations and demonstrations as you can – just as you would when you're teaching a "real" class. You could stand in front of a whiteboard and draw diagrams, or include images from the web – whatever it takes to explain the concept in the best way possible.
3. Don't attempt to explain too much in one video. Think about what you want your students to know, and work backwards from there when planning your content. It's

much better to have a few short, succinct videos that explain concepts clearly than long, meandering videos that may be intimidating to students.

4. Some teachers like to script, and others prefer to just hit record and start rolling. Do whichever feels comfortable – but if you do script, your video will be much more engaging to students if you try to keep it as “human” as possible.
5. Don’t spend too long worrying about production values at first! It’s the learning content that’s most important – and as long as video explains a concept well, it doesn’t matter if it’s a little rough around the edges.
6. Have fun! One of the best things about online video is that it retains what’s great about great teaching. Humour and enjoyment are key elements of effective classrooms, so don’t be afraid to have a little fun when creating your videos!

For more resources on flipping your classroom

www.flippedinstitute.org