

CHEAT SHEET: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF VIDEO

“Though videos can never replace the personal dynamic between educators and students, they can be used to ignite conversations; pique interest; create perplexity and inspire inquiry; flip instruction and extend engagement; demonstrate labs, experiments and abstract concepts; and create opportunities for students and teachers to create their own media.”

Tucker, Caitlin. *Mind/Shift: Teachers' Guide to Using Videos*. *Mind/Shift*. 2013.

What is it?

From film projectors to laser discs, videotapes to DVDs, film in the classroom is not new. But today, with video easily accessible on almost any device, teachers are increasingly relying on it for learning purposes. Yet, using video effectively in the classroom isn't as simple as just pressing the play button. Too often, students zone out and become passive viewers, getting much less out of the experience than they could. Fortunately, a few simple steps can help you prime your students to be active, engaged viewers.

How do I get started?

- 1. Find quality videos.** Just because a video is award-winning, it doesn't mean it's the best resource for your lesson. Be picky. Go for high-quality and high-interest! Try to find videos that are reliable, relatable, and connect to the real world.
- 2. Check your tech.** Sounds basic, but make sure that your equipment works — sight and sound. Check for buffering and disable devices competing for Wi-Fi. And then think about your room configuration. Would everyone feel that they have the best seat in the house?
- 3. Pose a question.** Outline your expectations and objectives up front to students. Share a guiding question that aligns to your learning goals.
- 4. Introduce a feedback loop.** Online discussion boards, annotated video platforms, or basic graphic organizers will encourage students to gather their thoughts and assess their learning while they watch.
- 5. Press play ... and pause.** Keep students focused by peppering in moments to question, analyze, summarize, reflect, and evaluate.

A-ha's!

Short and sweet. Rather than showing an entire video, consider cropping and editing to highlight the pieces that are the most relevant.

One size doesn't fit all. Is video accessible for all of your students? Consider making transcripts or closed captioning available.

Create playlists. Share your chosen videos with playlists. Organize by theme or by schedule to help keep students on task.

All's fair ... As an educator, you can use portions of copyrighted work without permission, as long as you follow Fair Use guidelines.

My notes:

Did you try these tips? Let us know how it went. We may even incorporate your ideas into future resources. Email us at: edurequests@commonsense.org