

Video Integration Ideas for Virtual Classrooms

1. Use a video resource to kick-off a PBL

Students with varying levels of academic achievement will have something to gain from videos that clearly introduce a topic while also offering some depth on the issue. Break these kinds of videos into pieces and assign students differentiated tasks.

Example Lesson: Deforestation in the Amazon

1. Assign all students a video resource that introduces them to the topic, like [Can Farms and Forests Coexist?](#) from Hot Mess.
2. Organize students into small groups, differentiated by level, and provide each group a discussion question. After they've discussed the video, together they'll co-write a group response for the teacher to check.
 - Lower level student groups can discuss the video, and co-write a summary of why cattle ranchers are burning the forest in the first place.
 - Mid-level student groups can discuss the video and co-write an analysis of how deforestation impacts indigenous groups or the local ecosystem.
 - Higher level students can discuss the video and co-write an analysis of the ramifications worldwide of deforestation in the Amazon.
3. After they've written a response to the question collectively, each student will add their own individual research question that will drive their personal PBL.

2. Video resources for gifted students and IEPs

Focus on the skill your students are working on, and switch out the video content you want them to use as the base of their development. This process already exists for students in gifted programs or with IEPs who may read different articles or novels, or complete different worksheets and projects.

Example Lesson: The Biology of Color

Differentiated Video options:

1. [What Colors Were Dinosaurs?](#)
2. [TED-Ed: The Science of Skin Color - Angela Koine Flynn](#)
3. [Why are Leaves Green? Part 1](#)

Example Lesson: Wavelengths of Color

Differentiated Video Options:

1. [What Color is the Universe?](#)
2. [TED-Ed: What is Color?](#)
3. [Everything you ever wanted to know about colour \(or color\)](#)

3. Multimedia as a classroom center

A multimedia center is great for teachers who like to cycle activities for their students to complete on a daily or weekly basis. In a video-based center, students would log in to their classroom and see a selection of videos they can choose to watch (perhaps three of ten within a week), or a specific video assignment. Rotating video centers can help the teacher fill in curriculum gaps with targeted or themed content and could include comprehension worksheets, short answer questions, quizzes, a video learning journal, or holiday activities and at-home crafts.

4. Review learned skills with video

During study periods before an exam or test, provide students with optional videos that review core curriculum content or skills. Alternatively, at the end of each lesson or unit, ask students to watch a video that reviews the target skill or concept and come back to the teacher or group with any questions or confusion.

Many of our content partners have excellent review resources, like LearnZillion, Crash Course, or TED-Ed.

5. Practice essay-writing skills with video transcripts

A popular style in digital content is the video essay. These videos take on the technique of a traditional essay while utilizing multimedia, such as audio, images, clips, and screenshots, as supporting evidence. Students may be watching video essays at home without realizing they're doing so, especially with video game or movie reviews.

Content partners like TED are known for this format, but shorter videos often follow this format as well.

For example, [Durer's Melencolia I: How Math and Art Can Heal](#) from Amor Sciendi. After students watch the video, the teacher can lead them in a discussion to summarize the main ideas. Then provide students with a transcript. In groups, pairs, or individually, ask students to highlight, underline, and bold the key aspects of an essay that they can identify in the video. Where is the thesis stated? Which pieces of evidence support which main idea? Was the conclusion strong or lacking?

6. Flip the classroom

Use videos as a way for students to develop expertise in a specific area for them to present to their peers.

Example Lesson: Digital Citizenship

1. Place students into groups of four.
2. Assign each student a separate video that goes in-depth on a specific topic in digital citizenship. For example:
 - a. [Wellcast: How to Beat Cyberbullies](#)
 - b. [Digital Safety, Responsibility and Awareness](#)
 - c. [Disconnecting from Technology](#)
 - d. [Private and Personal Information](#)
3. Students will watch their assigned video, taking notes along the way. Students will write a summary of the video, and give a short presentation or post in their virtual classroom for their peers.
4. Together, students will combine their expertise to create a group project on the topic of digital citizenship.