

GLOBAL MLearning Course. Session 4 – Using downloadable and online video

So, hands up which teacher has NOT shared a Youtube video or other video with students? Any time I ask this at a talk there are hardly any teachers who raise a finger. Since the proliferation of online video using online clips from sites such as Youtube has become a favourite for many teachers I've met around the world.

Most teachers consider Youtube videos for in-class use, perhaps showing one that links to the theme of a lesson or a funny one as a "reward" or nice way to finish a class. But what about harnessing video for out-of-class use?

Here are 3 suggestions for making use of the wealth of online video currently available in most parts of the world (there are still several countries that ban Youtube, in which case perhaps try one of the alternative online video sites listed at the end)

- Video show and tell. One class a month (or a week) students bring in a video link that they would like to show. The video must be in English and last less than 3 minutes (or whatever time length you choose). They have to be able to say why they like it. Students with handheld devices that show video (netbooks, tablets or smartphones) can show the video to each other in small groups.
- Topical video. Before you start the next unit in your coursebook, tell students the topic. Assign them for homework to find online videos relating to this topic. They must choose one video they think is best. In groups, students look at each other's videos and then choose the top two which are presented later to the class when the unit begins (or ends).
- Video homework. This is the most straightforward way. Choose a video that you think relates to the topic of the lesson. Make a worksheet to go with it. Assign it as homework before you do that lesson. Want ideas for how to exploit video? There is a list of 20 activity ideas in the link below.

There are other ideas that one could do of course. Of course one of the problems with any of these options is finding appropriate video material to work with. There are now millions of videos online, and to be honest there is a lot of stuff with very dubious quality. With Global, we wanted to make video an integral part of homework. This meant quality authentic video, but also level and language appropriate video. For more details on how we did this see the next part of this session below.