

Multimedia Goal Setting Activity for Students - 026

In this episode I'll share the steps for a goal setting activity perfect for anytime of the year. By using EdTech tools that capture video, voice, and text, you can have students chronicle their goals. You'll hear strategies for making this happen with any grade level in any subject area along with a favorite spotlight tool!

Hello there! My name is Monica Burns, I'm a former classroom teacher and now I spend my time sharing tips, strategies and activity ideas to make easy EdTech integration a possibility in your classroom. You may be familiar with my books, like *Tasks Before Apps* or my blog ClassTechTips.com. Whether we've met at a conference or special event, you've followed along with my EdTech tips for years, or simply joining in for the first time today, I'm so glad you're here!

In this bite-sized podcast you'll get some quick info and actionable tips to energize and elevate teaching and learning!

You can head to my website classtechtips.com/podcast for all of the show notes. That's where you'll find the transcript for each episode, links to resources, and any of the free downloads I mention.

There are a lot of exciting things happening the next few months including webinars, book celebrations, and so much more! Make sure you're on the list and don't miss a thing! Sign up for my free newsletter at classtechtips.com/podcast.

This week's podcast is titled "Multimedia Goal Setting Activity for Students." The start of a new year is a popular time to pause, reflect, and take stock of what you'd like to accomplish during the year to come. For many people, this happens during the first week of January or the first few weeks of school. Helping students appreciate the power of goal setting can happen any time of year.

In this podcast episode, I've outlined a few strategies you can use to have students capture their goals for the year. Many of you know I'm a big fan of the [Adobe Spark tools](#) since they are free and simple for students of all ages to use. You can tailor the

activity ideas below to different grade levels and apply goal setting to a range of subject areas, too. There is a blog post and a step-by-step guide that goes along with this episode. I'll make sure to link to it in the show notes, just head over to classtechtips.com/podcast to see this episode and all of the resources.

MUSIC

There are a few ways to start getting students thinking about the goals they have for this calendar year, school year, or any chunk of time. You can provide time for students to first reflect on their accomplishments. They can start by making a list or talking with a partner about some big or small things they are proud to have accomplished so far this school year. You might create a list to model for students or provide a few examples for them to get started.

Then, students can identify a goal they'd like to achieve this year. Often when leading [professional development for teachers](#) I ask participants to set goals in this format: *This week...*, *This month...*, *This year...*. You might also want to provide a clear format for students to follow in their own goal setting videos. A week/month/year format or something that requires students to think about the steps they'll take to accomplish their goals can help them think through how they'll reach their goals.

A popular way of setting an intention for the year is to focus on one word. For example, last year I tried to focus on the word *balance*, and this year my one word is *deeper*. If you are looking at goal setting through a lens outside of a particular content area, this is a great strategy to promote skills for lifelong learners.

You can model this type of goal setting for students by focusing in on your own one word and a corresponding action item. My 2019 one word is *deeper* because I

wanted a few things in my life to have a deeper practice. At the start of the year, I committed to three things I wanted to do deeper and connected it to an action item that is measurable.

First, I'd like to write longer blog posts that dive deeper into a topic as opposed to some of the shorter pieces I've written in the past. My action item is to reach 800+ words per post. Second, I'd like to create more videos and make sure they are available on all platforms and do a better job of making sure everything has captions. My action item is to record and publish two videos a week. And lastly, I'd like to make a deeper commitment to my personal fitness this year. My action item is to attend a class or have a workout session at least four times a week.

So let's talk about how you might use this goal setting idea to for a student-created multimedia project.

MUSIC

Regular listeners of the podcast or readers of my blog know that I love the [Adobe Spark](#) tools. I've worked with the team there for awhile and have a book titled [40 Ways to Inject Creativity in the Classroom with Adobe Spark](#) that I wrote with [Ben Forta](#) that was published by [EdTechTeam](#) last year. For this multimedia goal setting activity I'll share some things to consider when using Spark Video for this, but you can tailor this idea to any other type of open-ended creation tool. Maybe iMovie, Premiere Rush, you name it.

Students can sign on to [Spark Video](#) on a Chromebook, web browser or iOS app. When they begin their project, they can use a template, or start from scratch like I usually do.

After adding a title, encourage students to think of symbols that go along with their goals. Spark Video lets you search for icons from [The Noun Project](#) and automatically adds citations at the end of the video. This is an awesome opportunity to think of vocabulary words for keyword searches for symbols to represent a goal.

Spark Video also gives users access to a library of music. Students can choose music that is uplifting or inspiring. They can also upload their own music if they have created music with another tool like [Soundtrap](#) or [Garageband](#). Soundtrap is an awesome collaborative music making tool students can use to make music independently or with another student. They were recently acquired by [Spotify](#) and are the real deal. Since you can have students create music in Soundtrap then export it as an MP3 file it gives them the flexibility to make music that goes along with their goals for the year.

MUSIC

No matter what video tool you choose to use, talking to students about the mood and color palate of their creation is a great way to bring conversations on audience into the equation. The different themes in Spark Video can connect to student goal setting as well. You might want to have a conversation with students on how colors relate to their topic or set the tone for their video. If your school has set up [Spark for Education](#) (also free) students can create custom themes around their brand.

With a multimedia creation, you can have students capture their goals with images and icons, adding their voice and music to communicate a message. This is a great alternative to a traditional "all about me" video and could be used at any point of the year when you want students to pause and think about their goals for the rest of the semester or term.

MUSIC

A project like this with younger students might incorporate more structure, such as having students storyboard and plan five slides with ideas for what will go on each one. You might give more flexibility for older students, but how you customize this activity for your students is totally up to you. I created an example you can use as an exemplar and linked it on the show notes page (classtechtips.com/podcast) you are welcome to share my goal setting activity with your students, but you might want to make your own example to share with them instead -- especially if you have really specific expectations, are trying to connect this activity to a particular standard, or simply want to help students get to know you a little bit better, too.

As you set goals with students this year and help them share these goals in video format, encourage students to provide feedback to one another. You might ask students to [plan first in a Google Doc](#) to make sure their goals are specific and actionable. I can't wait to see what you and your students create with Spark Video (or your favorite movie tool) this year!

So let's make this EdTech easy...

1. Discuss the importance of goal setting with your students
2. Share an example or expectations for a multimedia project
3. Introduce or review a movie making tool like Spark Video
4. Provide time for students to create and share their goal setting movies

MUSIC

I love bringing you free resources like this podcast to energize and elevate teaching and learning! Can you do me a favor? If you like the podcast, leave a review on iTunes, Spotify or wherever you're listening to this... tell a friend about the podcast, or post a link to the episode on your social media. And if you'd like to stay connected follow @classtechtips on Instagram or your favorite social network. I visit schools and conferences all over the world, so if your organization is in need of professional learning -- just send a message my way!

See you next week with more easy EdTech tips!