

Flipgrid

I first used Flipgrid in one of my online master's courses, where I was required to introduce myself and discuss weekly topics. Following graduation, I attempted to incorporate this tool into my classroom instruction because I believed it was an excellent tool for sharing short videos and engaging students asynchronously. However, because I used it exclusively as a student and not as a teacher, it was challenging for me to encourage students to experiment with various Flipgrid features. I chose Flipgrid for this Technology Exploration activity because I wanted to learn about functions other than simply uploading videos, as well as about various example activities that this tool can assist with. The learning goal of using this tool would be to assist students in actively engaging and interacting within online learning settings, and to use this as an evaluation tool.

Features & How can it be used for teaching

During this activity, I concentrated primarily on the feature for teachers. Grid is similar to "class," in that it allows me to create specific groups to which I want to assign students. I can limit access to only students at my school using the "School Email Domain" menu, and the "Student ID list" allows me to add emails of my students and provide the link. I can receive an email notification when new students are added to the Grid by using the "Notify Me" feature. This feature, I believe, can be used to track student progress and provide timely feedback when some students have difficulty accessing the Grid. When the semester is over or I want to disable access without deleting the videos, I can make my grid inactive. I can allow downloads so that students can keep records of their assignments.

I can add "Topics" to the Grid, which is a feature for grouping videos. When I create a new topic, I have the option of selecting the maximum length of the video, which ranges from 15 seconds up to 5 minutes. I can select Topic privacy — If I use Flipgrid for testing and want to be the only one who sees the video, I can enable "Video Moderation." If I want peer feedback, I can turn it off and allow students to leave comments beneath videos. With the "Freeze date," deadlines are set for students to adhere to the timeline. I can also make the topic active/inactive/hidden; for example, freezing the topic will allow students to only view the videos but not upload their responses.

Students can make thumbnails after they've taken videos, and Flipgrid even allows teachers to specify how their students can decorate their thumbnails. Stickers and drawings are permitted, and I believe that enabling or disabling this feature will help to set the tone of the activity – for example, if the goal of the activity is to have an in-depth discussion, I would disable this decoration feature to create a serious and formal atmosphere. For evaluation purpose, I can create a custom rubric with criteria so that I can evaluate student's performances or responses immediately after watching the videos.

I can provide a brief explanation of what the assignment will entail, and there are several customization options. With the whiteboard icon, I can add sentences to the screen and upload image files to give specific instructions while explaining them in the video. I discovered that there are two options for sharing the link: I can either share the link for the grid as a whole or for the specific topics. If there are multiple assignments due on the same deadline, it would be better if I share the grid link so that students can access all of the topics. "Topic Tip" feature would be a great way to direct students to create videos in a certain way, in that it appears when they record their assignments. Additional attachments can be added so I can add supplementary materials.

I found websites that provides fun and engaging Flipgrid activity examples. They are mostly recommendations for K-12 teachers, but I believe some of the examples, such as "Exit Tickets," "Reflect on Learning," "Set Expectations," are still applicable to college-level students.

50+ Fantastic Flipgrid Ideas For Every Kind of Classroom:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/flipgrid-ideas/>

Flipgrid Ideas: 17 Ways to Infuse Flipgrid:

<https://www.hollyclark.org/2017/05/28/flipgrid-ideas/>