

Office of Teaching and Learning

Video Creation Support and Tools

Create authentic videos in the target language for World Language Educators

Why create videos with students?

Videos are an effective tool for language acquisition because they help learners develop a variety of skills, including

- **listening and speaking** (students can pick up on interaction cues, turn-taking, and checking skills);
- **vocabulary** (students learn self-expression more effectively when matched with visuals);
- **critical thinking** (students think in a new way when introduced to complex content); and
- **visual literacy** (students develop technology and presentational skills).

Video creation makes lessons more memorable, increases student motivation, and provides an authentic context for the target language. Rewatching videos also presents an opportunity to practice and retain material.

Tips for effective video use:

Video creation allows learners of all levels to participate in and benefit from language acquisition through equitable access, student choice, and technological engagement. Below are some tips for effective video use.

- **Identify goals:** Videos can be created to reinforce material previously covered or introduce new material.
- **Provide support:** Provide students with appropriate scaffolding and collaboration strategies in addition to technical assistance.
- **Use captions:** Captions help students build reading comprehension skills and ensure access for students who are hearing impaired.

Video Project Ideas

1. Create a personal narrative or retell a story by incorporating historical events or famous people from the target language. Student-made example: [L'histoire d'Évangéline](#)
2. Alleviate student apprehension for oral exams by allowing them to showcase their learning in a video. Have students record interviews or dialogues. Teacher-made example: [La presentación personal de Elías](#)
3. Make a video tour of a significant location or create a virtual field trip for other language learners. How-to video guide: [4 Steps to Create a Virtual FieldTrip](#)

4. Present authentic information on a cultural aspect of the target language. Collaborative example: [German 1 grammar and vocabulary](#)
5. Record a video self-assessment. Teacher-made example: [How my students speak Portuguese](#)

Tips and tricks for all

Landscape mode

Turn your device horizontally when making a video. Videos recorded in a horizontal rather than a “portrait” format are easier to edit and upload.

Music

Students and teachers must comply with copyright law when creating videos. Videos containing copyright-infringing material may be blocked from uploading on shared platforms. While brief excerpts of copyrighted music may be permissible for educational purposes on platforms like Canva Education, users should familiarize themselves with platform-specific guidelines and best practices for fair use.

Lighting

Light is the hardest element to edit in a previously recorded video clip. For the best resolution, ensure adequate lighting or use natural light from a window.

Audio

Use an external microphone if possible and film your videos indoors away from air conditioning vents to avoid wind for the best results.

Practice

Having students plan, film, edit, refine, and review their video projects enhances the learning experience.

Video Creation Tools for Teachers and Students

Website/Tool	Description
Canva.com	Create or edit videos for free on a user-friendly platform. Lesson plan maker available with education account.
Animoto.com	Create slideshow-style videos or photo montages with music easily and for free with unlimited student accounts. Lesson plans and ideas are available. Quick start guide here .
Vimeo.com	Create educational videos for free, with high-quality resolution.