FLIPGRID.

Building Flipgrid Communities

Flipgrid integration guide

The Power of Flipgrid

Welcome to Flipgrid! This document is a general introduction to help you with all you need to know to get started building your Flipgrid community. There are several documents in the **Flipgrid Integration + Help Center** that are more specific to your discipline to help you get creative with your content area. We hope that the material we provide in these documents will help you make Flipgrid a *powerful* tool in your classroom!

What is Flipgrid?

Flipgrid is not meant to replace what you are currently doing in the classroom -- we think you are awesome! Rather, Flipgrid is designed to help foster an active, social learning community by providing your students a place to share ideas, receive feedback, and spark new ideas. Think of the grid as your classroom. Then, add topics or questions that fuel peer-to-peer discussions with your students.

Why should I build a Flipgrid Community?

Flipgrid helps your students learn more about themselves and each other, reinforce new material, build presentation skills, and reflect on their critical thinking processes. A Flipgrid community will not only benefit students, it will benefit you. It will help you get to know your students better, give you feedback on what your students are learning, provide insight into what your students are passionate about, and remind you that you are doing a great job!

Shared Culture of Flipgrid Communities:

- Everyone participates (Flipgrid brings the back row to the front)
- Everyone has equal time and volume to share their beliefs
- Encourages self-expression and respect of community voice
- Allows for a diversity of responses (there should be no single correct answer in Flipgrid)
- Fun for both students and educators
- Students feel comfortable enough to develop their own unique voice
- It is EASY to use! (That is what our users tell us!)

The 4 W's of Flipgrid

- **Who should use it?**
  Any educator who is looking for new ways to build a modern classroom.
- **When should I use it?**
  Anytime you want to encourage an active, social learning community.
- **Where should I use it?**
  Anywhere you have a defined community (like a class) that has shared interest in course content and a shared respect for one another.
- **Why should I use it?**
  To give every member of the community a chance to share their ideas and be heard.

The Power of a Question [2]

The three keys to Flipgrid success are you, your students, and powerful questions that spark discussion and encourage dialogue on relevant topics in your classroom.

Good Questions

- Ask "Why" "How? "Under what conditions?"
- Encourage students to compare and contrast
- Challenge students to include self-generated examples and previous experience
- Inspire students to respond to each other's videos and respect a diversity of opinion

Weak Questions

- Have "yes or no" responses
- Have one clear right answer
- Often start with "What?" and can be answered without elaboration.
- Do not encourage diversity of opinion or reflection on individual experience.

Meeting Each Other: Getting Started

Before a class even starts, students can create a video introducing themselves to each other in Flipgrid. Students, especially those who haven't created videos before, might feel uncomfortable the first few times. However, students will start to develop their own voice and feel confident expressing themselves in addition to respecting the voices and ideas of their peers.

In order to help with this process, create your own introduction video first, and be sure to remind students that your Flipgrid community is a warm and welcoming place, just like your classroom. You might also want to share end-of-class reflections from your last class, as this will reassure students that they are capable of doing well in your class both academically and socially. [1]

Transforming Dialogue: Creating Topics, Questions, and Themes for your Flipgrid Community

Consider the first topics of conversation after an initial introduction. Do people discuss the weather or delve into something deep right away? As an educator, you have the power to guide such discussion among your students by the way you introduce topics and ask questions. One of the best ways to set the tone in Flipgrid is to ask questions or introduce topics with your own video. By modeling Flipgrid you will help students feel more at ease when using it. In the section below, we provide a few suggestions to increase student engagement and promote learning.

1. Make it Personal [3]

- o Invite students to relate material to their individual experiences. For example, "When would you use this material in your everyday life?" and "When have you encountered someone different from you?"

2. Invite Comparison [4]

- o Build themes, topics, and questions that invite comparison. For example, "Who is funnier, you or your friends? Why?"

3. Find Meaning [5]

- o Encourage students to choose questions or topics that are important to them and relevant to the foundations of your class.

4. Be Current [6]

- o Consider building topics that are related to timely events such as holidays or current events in the news. Topics that are controversial are also a good way to encourage participation and the respect of diverse voices in your classroom.

5. Use Visuals [7]

- o Encourage students to incorporate a creative use of visuals - skits, drawings, pictures, etc.

6. Collaborate [8]

- o Encourage students to work together if the topic is complex in order to create something more innovative than what they might have created alone.

Responding to Each Other

Just as a face-to-face conversation requires feedback to keep the conversation going, when a student posts a video on Flipgrid, it is time for classmates to respond. In a Flipgrid community everyone has a voice and everyone can respond to one another. Even after a single round of responses, the response chain can continue on a topic that is interesting. Encourage students to keep those conversations going! As your class progresses, you can even encourage students to post questions in their videos for other students to respond to with their own ideas and experiences.

- Model use by posting the topic or question as a video in addition to text.
- Encourage students to pause in the creation of the video if they need a chance to gather their thoughts or to build a creative performance.
- Highlight student videos in class each week or after the conclusion of a topic or unit.
- Feature a student's response by embedding it on your course website or showing it in your classroom.
- Encourage students to provide feedback (as much as possible) and respect each other's voice. How you treat people in your Flipgrid community matters.
- Formative feedback should be provided on students' ideas and presentation skills.
- Students who use social media can share their videos outside of Flipgrid, if this is a feature you choose to activate in your classroom.
- Rubrics are always helpful to scaffold student responses.
- Encourage students to capture and re-capture the video several times if needed.
- Videos can even be shared outside of class to let parents know what children are learning (Flipgrid is awesome at parent/teacher conferences) and how they are developing their own voice.

Saying Goodbye: Reflecting after Learning

After completing a project, unit, semester, or even the entire school year, educators can use Flipgrid as a tool for gathering student reflections. This is great way to find out what students learned, and how you might help them do better in the future. These reflections can also lead students to consider what they learned, and how they can apply this knowledge outside of the classroom. This is one of the most rewarding parts of using Flipgrid. Rather than walking away wondering what students retained, you can see that your learning community has evolved in their shared value of critical thinking.

Additional Resources and Support

Please visit our **Flipgrid Integration + Help Center** for domain-specific K12 and Higher Education integration documents or email us at any time at **support@flipgrid.com** In addition to answering your questions, we'd love to hear your ideas, outcomes, and creative uses!

Most importantly, we hope you and your students enjoy building an active, social learning community in your classroom. See you on the grid!

References

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