



## Simple but Effective: Using Students' Smartphones to Watch Videos

### What is the teaching activity?

- To have students use their smartphones to watch videos before, during and after class. Examples include tutorial videos showing students how to practice for a test speaking in a foreign language, prepare for their exit exam or properly execute a weight training exercise.

### What are the advantages of using the smartphone for watching videos?

- *Before:* Teachers can have their students view videos on their phones to prepare them for the class.
- *During:* A variety of videos may need to be viewed, especially when students have been assigned different topics and/or have varying degrees of knowledge. As each student uses their own phone to watch their relevant video, they benefit from individualized instruction.
- *After:* Being able to watch videos of procedures for such activities as chemistry labs, surveying exercises and medical interventions on their phones can provide students with an engaging and timely reminder of how the teacher requires tasks to be carried out.

### How do students use their phones?

- Simply put, students can use their smartphones to access videos from numerous online platforms, including course management systems (CMS) and social media. They can also access videos previously downloaded onto their phones.

### What are some hot tips for teachers?

- Provide face-to-face time in class during which you explain your purpose for using videos
- Have students bring headphones/earbuds to class
- Aim to find or create videos that are no longer than three to ten minutes in duration.
- Quiz your students on the content in the videos. See our video on using the Moodle app for assessment if you want your students to keep taking advantage of their phones.

### Keep in mind...

- that, of course, videos can be played on the big screen and shown to the entire class at the same time; however, we thought it useful to demonstrate how using students' phones in a classroom setting allows the teacher to meet a variety of individual student needs, such as differences in level of knowledge, English comprehension and visual acuity. This is also true for outside of class, where assigned video work using the phone offers students' choices in terms of where and when to watch the video, as well as how many times to watch it.
- that teachers who wish to make their own videos can simply use their phone's camera. Alternately, they can use Adobe Premiere, Hitfilm Express, iMovie or Lightworks. If possible, caption your movie; the easiest way is to upload it to YouTube and then edit the captions to correct these.

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