

FOR TEACHERS

Filmmaking is a “whole brain” communication platform, meaning a film communicates through multiple ways of learning (visual, aural, linguistic, musical, logistical, kinesthetic, graphical, etc). The process of filmmaking engages all these methods of teaching and learning and so becomes an excellent classroom tool.

You can break your classroom into groups and ask the students to collaborate to produce a short “film” about almost any topic. Through the process of research, design, scripting, shooting and editing their movie, the students will work together to explore the subject matter in a way that could not occur in other classroom settings.

I encourage you to divide these filmmaking guidelines into simple exercises you can use while prepping your students for their film projects. REMEMBER: Many students already are “making movies” with their home video tools and uploading them to YouTube, etc. The teacher IS NOT an expert filmmaker but rather a coach – enabling the students to express themselves through collaboration and filmmaking and providing them with information and guidance to improve their communication skills.

Here is what you can do to use Filmmaking in your classroom

1. Realize that project-based learning is a powerful model and that filmmaking is perhaps the ultimate project-based platform because the students must de-construct an idea then reconstruct it using all methods of communicating.
2. Divide your classroom into groups, perhaps spreading those who have previous video experience through the groups
3. Use the “PRACTICE” items in the Filmmaking Tip Sheets as exercises to prepare for a “better” filmmaking effort
4. Consider moving through the production process like this.
 - a) Break the class into groups
 - b) Use the PRACTICE steps in the Filmmaking Tips
 - c) Use the sample documents for guidance
 - d) Ask the groups to discuss, design, and storyboard their idea
 - e) Ask the groups to create script for their characters
 - f) Ask the groups to determine roles and pre-produce their film
 - g) Ask the group to prepare then shoot their film
 - h) Ask the group to work together to edit their film
 - i) Understand that tools and talent are variables and try to ensure that everyone participates in the process.

REMEMBER: The teacher is NOT a filmmaking expert, but rather a coach to ensure the process moves forward and stays on message.