

Video-making in language teaching

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Theoretical background



- Media literacy theory of Burn and Durran (2007):
Cultural – semiotic 3-Cs model (cultural-critical-creative)
- Cultural theory of Bourdieu (1984):
cultural capital – academic capital
- Estrangement theory (ostranenie) of the Russian formalists (Shklovsky, 1925):
Attribution of new meanings to already known texts
- Pedagogical theory of Vygotsky (1978):
 - ✓ spontaneous – scientific concepts
 - ✓ role of play
 - ✓ Zone of Proximal Development (Z.P.D.)
- Teamwork & development of 21st century skills (Jenkins et al., 2010)

Definition and video genres

Definition: A video is a multimodal text, which uses a combination of semiotic modes to transmit a message (Χοντολίδου, 1999:1).

E.g. A video uses the image (settings, actors, objects, colours, lights), sound (music, oral speech in the form of narration/dialogues/monologue/interview, natural sound, external sounds, sound effects) and written speech (beginning titles, end titles, intertitles, subtitles).

In relation to that see the 'kineikonic mode' theory by Burn (2013).

Video genres useful for educational purposes:

- trailer
- short film
- short animation film
- short documentary
- explainer video
- video presentation
- commercial
- video clip
- video-recorded choreography



Educational benefits



- Activation of students' cultural capital
- Building up of students' academic capital
- Development of students' critical thought
- Development of students' creativity
- Expression of students' multi-faceted identity (cultural, local, national, social, gender, age)
- Enhancement of students' motivation
- Development of students' video metalanguage
- Development of students' 'soft' skills and 21st century skills due to the collaborative kind of work

Video-making process

- Conception of initial idea (a theme from the school book, an inter-disciplinary theme, for a short-, long-term EFL class project or for a short-, long-term inter-disciplinary or extra-curricular project)
- Separation of students in teams (research, script-writing, storyboard, director, actors, cameraman, clapperboard boy/girl, filming, sound recording, image and sound editing)
- Material collection/interviews*
- Script-writing
- Storyboard
- Rehearsals
- Filming
- Image and sound editing
- Screening and feedback

* Attention to the copyright of the used material, if the video is to be screened out of the school class.



Example of a storyboard sheet (I)

Digital Story Storyboard Template

Name: _____

Page: _____

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Image Description/Drawing: | Image Description/Drawing: | Image Description/Drawing: |
| Image Credit: | Image Credit: | Image Credit: |
| Spoken Text: | Spoken Text: | Spoken Text: |
| Written Text: | Written Text: | Written Text: |
| Music/Sounds: | Music/Sounds: | Music/Sounds: |
| Music/Sound Credit: | Music/Sound Credit: | Music/Sound Credit: |



Digital Story Storyboard by Jennifer Richardson Conrad is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).

Free Storyboard templates: <https://boords.com/storyboard-template>

Digital storyboards:

- <https://www.storyboardthat.com/>
- <https://www.canva.com/create/storyboards/>

Example of a storyboard sheet (II)

Storyboard: An Example

"CS2C: Fun with Storyboards" by Kenneth Chan



1 Establishing shot of classroom. One student snoring. One sits up in alarm over assignment.



2 Student feels overwhelmed. Voiceover: "I've never done this!" Camera pans slowly to make space.



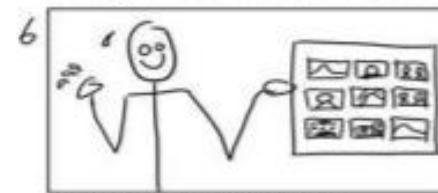
3 Ideas surrounded by blurry thought bubble. Brainstorm may also be video montage surrounded by blurry frame.



4 Moment of clarity. "Aha!" Ding or chimes; lightbulb moment.



5 Working in a dark dorm room. Sounds of clock ticking and pencil scratching on paper.



6 Proudly shows off finished storyboard. Wipes sweat off brow. Victory music. Zoom in on storyboard.



7 Submitting via Coursework. Fade out as if ending.



8 Back to the classroom. Keep as similar as possible to original. "Elaborate on your storyboards!"



9 Back to the drawing board. Looking haggard but determined. Fade out.

Tips to make an educational video by distance

- Choose a theme that can be developed through individual filming sessions.
- Gather the collected information and write the script on collaborative documents on the cloud, e.g. Google docs.
- Teams meet online on conference meetings to collaborate on their assigned work by sharing content, screens and even to make rehearsals, e.g. Webex Breakout Sessions, Skype, Messenger.
- The final video is screened online and feedback is provided in an oral or written form (e.g. on Chat).

Useful video-making tools

For videos:

Movavi. Free Video maker: You can create videos with music and special effects

<https://www.movavi.com/support/how-to/windows-movie-maker-review.html?>

FlexClip: A free online video maker that helps you easily turn photos and video clips into professional videos

<https://www.flexclip.com/>

Movie Maker (free software embedded in MS Windows, the versions before Windows 10)

Filmora (its watermark appears on the final video, if the free version is used)

<https://filmora.wondershare.net/video-editor-software/>

For animation videos:

POWTOON: Free Online animated video maker <https://www.powtoon.com/labs/tutorials/>

Animaker. A free online do-it-yourself (#DIY) animation video maker <https://www.animaker.com/>

For explainer videos: <https://www.loom.com/>

Example

An inter-disciplinary video between History, Maths and English

School video presentation 'Treasure Hunt in Evangeliki' (2020-2021)

<https://youtu.be/Cw0UpLKW3fw>

- Made as a school video presentation for the Erasmus+ KA229 project entitled 'Playing Europe' (2020-2022)
- Application of the 'Treasure Hunt' game for educational purposes
- Script-writing by distance on a Google doc, messenger group used for communication, original music track composed, filming with protective measures against COVID-19, editing during lockdown: in parts at home, final editing on Sony Vega Pro software



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Thank you for your attention

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