

# Classroom Video Projects

Excerpted from the books **Learn iMovie in a Day** and **Learn Premiere Elements in a Day** copyright Arnie Abrams 2006, published by Visions Technology, Eugene OR

Technology for technology's sake usually gets cut out of the curriculum. But, if you can integrate video production into the existing subject matter of the school, it can benefit students without taking up valuable class time. Here are some great ideas for classroom projects, categorized by subject matter area.

- ***Cross Curriculum Projects***

- Students use research skills to investigate the content and background of their video productions.
- A group of students edit together a video scrapbook of the highlights of the school year's activities.
- Create a short video newscast of school or community events and news.
- Create a short documentary on some aspect of school, personal or community life.
- Create an "All About Me" autobiographical video using still photos and existing video clips.
- Videotape a student conducting an interview with a local VIP. Add post production effects (such as voice over shots) and edit it into a concise presentation.
- Shoot video of you performing or doing a task for inclusion in a digital portfolio.
- Create a "video paper" instead of writing a paper and present it to the class.

- ***Language Arts / Foreign Language projects***

- Use writing a script as a creative writing assignment.
- Write a script using correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. This becomes a language arts assignment. Foreign language students do this in the language they are studying.
- Write a critique of your video production as a writing assignment.
- Write a short story and create a video of only the first half of it. Show it to other students and have them discuss how the story might end. They might finish the story as a writing assignment.
- Give a speech or presentation on video. A compilation video with excerpts of each student can be edited together.
- Create a movie in which you speak in the foreign language you are studying. English subtitles can be added in iMovie.
- Bring a book report to life by acting out an excerpt of it and putting it on video.

- ***Science projects***

- Shoot video of a slow natural process, such as a flower opening or clouds forming and dramatically speed it up on the computer to create a time lapse movie of it.
- Create a video that documents the changes that a local tree or plant undergo throughout a year.
- Shoot video of a very fast physical process, such as a horse running or water dripping, and radically slow it down on the computer to better analyze it.

- Shoot video to document pollution or another environmental problem at your school or in your community.
  - Videotape a science lab and have the teacher add it to a video archive of science experiment demos.
- ***Math projects***
    - Shoot video that visualizes a math concept in a real life situation, such as calculating the height of a flag pole using triangulation.
    - Shoot and edit a video counting book for young kids, that shows various quantities of objects and superimpose the numbers as titles.
- ***Social Studies projects***
    - Bring a video camera along on a field trip and create a documentary video of the field trip. Be sure to ask permission to shoot video at the location.
    - Document your family history by creating a video using old photos or video clips. You might add audio interviews to bring it to life.
    - Create a “video postcard” of another country or city using video or stills you shot on a trip or from existing images.
- ***Visual and Performing Arts projects***
    - Create a music video or visualize a poem.
    - Write, shoot and edit a commercial. This could be about an existing product or one you devise.
    - Videotape a rehearsal of the school play for analysis or for archiving. You can put short clips of the play on the school web site for promotional purposes.
    - Create a freeform video as an art project. Use special effects in iMovie to make the images more abstract.
- ***Health and P.E. projects***
    - Shoot video of a student athlete practicing their sport and then make a slow motion movie of it to show to the athlete for analysis.
    - Create a short documentary on a common health problem, such as obesity.
- ***Community Service / Electives projects***
    - Document a social problem in the community by shooting video of it and creating a movie offering a possible solution or call for action.
    - Create a video public service announcement (PSA) for a local non-profit group.
    - Shoot video of you doing volunteer work to help document your efforts. Include it on CD-ROM, videotape or DVD as part of your portfolio.
    - Shoot video of you doing your hobby or sport or work with a club. Include the video in the biographical section of your digital portfolio.
    - Research a career you are interested in pursuing. Visit some on-the-job sites and shoot and edit a documentary about that career.