How to Really Get Students to Learn from Video

Videos can be an engaging way to present information to your students. They can entertain. They can inspire. They can change one’s views about the world.

Despite these benefits, watching videos too often becomes a passive activity for students. Students may forget the content of even the most informative and entertaining video, simply because they are not actively engaging with the content.

So how do you make videos more active for your students? Include activities with every video! Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Give your student a list of questions to look over prior to watching a video. That way, they can be actively thinking about them as they watch the video and will be more apt to remember the information being presented.

If creating your own videos, consider embedding questions into each video. Have your students pause the video and answer each question before moving on.

Once your students have finished watching a video, present them with an activity that ties to what they just watched. You could give them a problem to solve, have them reflect upon what they just watched, or come up with additional questions on their own.

If students are watching the video in class, pausing for a think-pair-share or other activity mid-video can also increase engagement.

Want to learn more about making videos more active for your students? Check out the following resources:

Effective educational videos

From Passive Viewing to Active Learning: Simple Techniques for Applying Active Learning Strategies to Online Course Videos

**Submitted by:**

Brian Martin

Instructional Design Consultant, IDEA Shop
Center for Teaching and Learning

Boise State University