



Flipped Instruction: Q & A

High School: Donna Bonavia

Tell us a bit about why you started to flip your instruction.

I am currently a graduate student at Wilmington University in Delaware. I am getting a Master's of Education degree in Applied Technology. In one of my courses they introduced the "Flipped Classroom" model of education. I thought it was brilliant! One of our assignments was to create a flipped classroom video. It was a hit with my students and I saw how effective it was in my large classroom. I continued to make flipped videos from that point one.



Tell us a little bit about 'how you flip.' How have you customized this method to fit your own needs?

I have large classes and I need to demonstrate to the back of the classroom. I also have kids pulled out of my room for testing, field trips, college visits and extra-curricular activities. I use the flipped classroom model as a means to address all of these challenges. I show my videos in my classroom so that I can demonstrate art techniques to the back of the room. I also use them to show to the students who enter the classroom late, miss class, or those who need to hear the instruction again in order to obtain mastery of the concept.

What are some tips or tricks that you would give to other art teachers who want to flip their classroom?

First, create your own videos! Don't use other peoples tutorials. Let your students see you teach. Remember, you are the teacher and your students need to learn from you. Secondly, relax and just talk and demonstrate, just like you would in the classroom. I tell myself that I am not making a Hollywood movie. Also, keep the videos under 5 minutes. My early videos were 7-8 minutes and I lost the kids attention. Also, I created an outline for my videos and I keep them consistent. For example, I start with stating the technique/project, then I introduce a masterpiece/artist, next demonstrate the technique and I end the video showing student examples. I find that keeping the videos consistent in how I deliver the instruction has helped my students and also has made it easy for me.

How have your students responded to this method? How is it impacting them?

It's incredible! By flipping my room I have eliminated discipline issues and raised the level of art that my students produce. The greatest impact of flipping my classroom is on how much easier my day is. I teach 6 classes a day (50 minute classes) with approximately 45-53 students in each class. Most of my classes are Art 1. I repeat myself all day. By recording my instruction, not only does it keep the delivery of instruction at the same level, it also saves me from having to repeat myself all day. Prior to flipping my classroom, I taught more thoroughly to my morning classes and as the day went on I shortened the delivery of instruction due to the fact that I was exhausted. Now, my lessons are more consistent throughout the day.