



What is the Flipped Classroom?

The Flipped Classroom is a meta strategy that allows students to gain their direct instruction (lecture) through videos/slide presentations/readings/etc. to provide more time in class to help students individually and in small groups with specific needs. This also allows for more active learning through many approaches including PBL (Project-Based Learning), Socratic Seminars, Inquiry, etc. The Flipped Classroom is NOT having students learn everything on their own. Instead, the teacher is available to help all students as they need support with their individual learning needs.

Mastery Learning is requiring students to make a certain grade level on all assignments showing that they have truly "mastered" the material. This allows students to revisit content they do not yet understand before moving on in the curriculum. With this approach, we are able to have three different levels of classes simultaneously based on mastery levels (76%- Standard; 86%- Honors; and 93%- AP). The Flipped Classroom allows teachers to be able to realistically use this approach to individualize learning!

Clearing Up Misconceptions

The Flipped Classroom is not...

- **A synonym for online videos.** When most people hear about the flipped class, all they think about are the videos. It is the student-teacher interaction and the meaningful learning activities that occur during the face-to-face time that is most important!
- **About replacing teachers with videos.** Much of the direct instruction (teachers giving information) can easily be shifted into other formats such as videos, etc. This does not replace the teacher; instead, this lets the teacher become even more useful in helping students with areas they struggle with on a personalized level!

- **An online course.** The Flipped Classroom utilizes class time for deeper, meaningful experiences to enhance the content leading to a broader understanding and memorable experiences.
- **A place where students work without structure.** The structure changes dramatically by shifting part of the responsibility to the students. Teachers guide the students through regular pacing and deadlines while offering more flexibility than a traditional classroom can allow.
- **When students spend the entire class staring at a computer screen.** An effective Flipped Classroom engages students in group activities on a regular basis. Yes, there is time spent on computers with formative assessments, content delivery, and projects. However, much of the time is spent with active learning in a group setting as well!
- **Where students work in isolation.** Flipped Classrooms allow for a variety of student arrangements from individual, small group, to full class settings based on the needs of the period. Students also receive an incredible increase in the amount of time they have working 1:1 or in small groups with their teacher!
- **Not the idea that all "Flipped Classrooms" look the same.** I have worked with flipped teachers around the world, and I can honestly say that no two flipped classrooms look the same! This is even further from the truth than saying all traditional classrooms look the same. The variety of activities that can be done are based on a teacher's strengths and the makeup of each individual group of students.
- **A change in technology- not in pedagogy.** The Flipped Classroom has been called, "The meta strategy that supports all others." Yes, technology has made the Flipped Classroom possible, but the point is to make room for other pedagogical approaches to be used in the classroom. Teaching methods such as Project-Based Learning, Peer Tutoring, Socratic Seminars, etc. are now obtainable on a regular basis.

The Flipped Classroom Is...

- A means to INCREASE interaction and personalized contact time between students and teachers.
- A classroom where the teacher is not the "sage on the stage", but the "guide on the side".
- A blending of direct instruction with multiple learning styles.
- A classroom where students who are absent due to illness or extra-curricular activities such as athletics or field-trips don't get left behind.
- A place where content is permanently archived for review or remediation.
- A class where all students are actively engaged in their learning.
- A setting where all students can get a personalized education.
- A place where the students take ownership and responsibility for their learning.
- An environment that promotes higher-order thinking.
- The beginning of truly differentiated instruction.