TED Ed

Video   Cognitivism   Social Learning

TED Ed is a "lesson creator" platform that allows you to structure an assignment around a video and assess students' engagement with the material. The lesson format consists of a lesson title, a written introduction ("Let's Begin"), a series of multiple choice or open-ended questions ("Think"), a place for additional resources to encourage further exploration ("Dig Deeper"), an interactive class discussion ("Discuss"), and a closing ("And Finally").

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Tool Snapshot

Price	Free
Learning	Cognitivism, Social Learning

Ease of Use	★★★★★
Privacy	★★★★★
Accessibility	★★★☆☆
Class Size	Unlimited
ISTE*S	Empowered Learner & Knowledge Constructor
FERPA/COPPA	COPPA: TED-Ed indicates that "We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13 without verifiable parental consent."

Ted-Ed Overview

Ever watch a great video on YouTube and wish you could share it with your class? Have you ever assigned a YouTube video as homework and wondered what your students learned from it? Or, maybe you are curious about "flipping" your classroom. TED-Ed is a "lesson creator" platform that allows you to structure an assignment around a video and assess students' engagement with the material. You can use any YouTube video you find (or create) or you can select from the specially-curated "TED-Ed Originals" section which features lessons co-created by educators around the world.

The lesson format consists of a lesson title, a written introduction ("Let's Begin"), a series of multiple-choice or open-ended questions ("Think"), a place for additional resources to encourage further exploration ("Dig Deeper"), an interactive class discussion ("Discuss"), and a closing ("And Finally"). Once you "publish" the lesson you can share the link with whomever you like, however you like. The lesson remains private. The platform allows you to easily browse videos by subject area or enter the URL of any YouTube video you've found. Alternatively, you can use one of the TED-Ed Originals as is and have your students join in public discussions, or modify the lesson for class objectives.

As the creator of the lesson, you'll be notified as your students complete the lesson and can review a summary of the results and comment on their answers. The individual's responses — including open-ended answers — can also be downloaded as a CSV file and imported into Excel.

With the obvious caveat that you need to find an appropriate video, this is a tool that can easily be adapted for pre-assessment, formative assessment, or summative assessment purposes by altering the types of questions you ask. For example, you can use the video as a prompt for a topic you are just beginning and have students share with you what they know beyond the video's content. You can use it mid-way through a unit to measure progress toward learning objectives. Or you can use it at the end of a unit to challenge students to apply what they've learned to the context presented in the video.

Privacy

In order to create lessons you must open a TED-Ed account, which requires an email address or Facebook account and password. In order for students to save their work (i.e., their answers to the questions) they need to have an account as well. The TED-Ed privacy policy indicates that in addition to account information and cookie use, comments made on discussions are public. However, it is possible to modify account preferences so that discussion comments you make are attributed to "anonymous." (5 stars)

Ease of Use

Easy to use with a very clean interface. New users receive welcome emails with tips for getting started and there is a pop-up interface for feedback and comment. There are also a series of FAQ pages available. There does not seem to be a comprehensive start-up guide available. (4.5 stars)

Impact on Student Learning

This is a tool that contributes to both motivation and assessment, but only if the videos available are consistent with the curricula. (5 stars)

Cost

The tool is completely free. (5 stars)

Power & Bias

TED-Ed is an open platform and is limited simply by the number of appropriate and relevant videos available on YouTube (4 stars).

Access

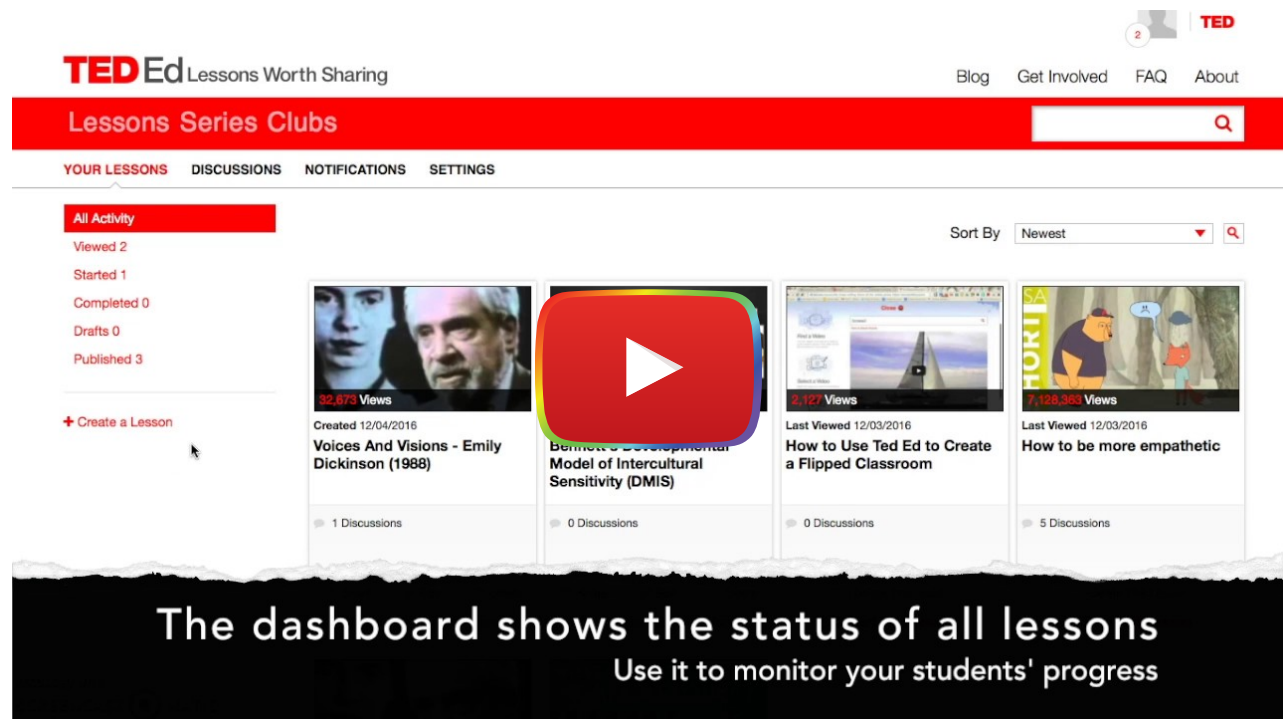The tool can be used on any device and does not require separate plug-ins. (5 stars)

Accessibility

This is a tool for presenting information visually, thus sight of the user is assumed. However, multiple contrasting colors and zoom abilities may help those with impaired sight. Sound quality, transcript availability, and closed captioning depend on the video source. Tips for increasing the accessibility of YouTube videos are [here](#) but are not evident on the TED-Ed site. (3 stars).

Language Support

In 2023, TED-Ed announced that its [award-winning animations are now available in five languages](#): German, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish.

TED-Ed Overview Video

[Watch on YouTube](#)

TED Ed & the SAMR Model

- **Substitution:** Students independently watch a video, answer questions, and participate in the online discussion on Ted-Ed, which takes the place of showing a video in class and having students discuss or take a quiz by pencil and paper.
- **Augmentation:** As students discuss and answer questions about the video there is a written record of the discussion and exchange which can be referenced as an assessment tool.
- **Modification:** Through embedded "video hints," students' attention can be easily drawn to specific segments of the video for an independent review of complex elements of the video. The use of the "Dig Deeper" section of the lesson plans promotes independent exploration of curated resources.
- **Redefinition:** Students use TED-Ed to create their own lessons and share the link with classmates, peers in other schools, and others around the world to broaden the discussion.

Learning Activities

Math

Students watch a video that is either explicitly about a math concept or a subject which requires numeracy skills to understand. Students answer related questions which require calculations similar to those in the video. Also see TED Ed Originals and TED Ed lessons for mathematics.

Science

Have students find a video which could be used to demonstrate a particular scientific concept (e.g., gravity) and create a lesson plan which is then shared with other students. Also see TED Ed Originals and TED Ed lessons for science and technology.

Second/Foreign Languages

Students practice listening skills by watching videos of speakers in "authentic" scenarios and answering questions which require focus on particular content or constructions.

Other

Student groups are assigned with different videos on the same topic and reply to identical question sets. Once complete, students share and compare their answers either in an online discussion or face-to-face and discover in what ways the videos complement or contradict each other and suggest why this might be the case. Also see TED Ed Originals and TED Ed lessons for social studies.

Resources

- How to Track Learning Progress
- A Student's Perspective on Using a TED Talk in Class
- Using TED-Ed to Create a Flipped Clasroom
- Can TED Talks Really Work in the Classroom?
- Teachers' reviews of Ted-Ed
- About interactive videos (alternatives to TED-eD)
- Educational video resources

How to Use TED-Ed

1. Go to http://ed.ted.com.
2. Click "Register" to sign-up for an account.
3. View the featured lessons, click through to all existing lessons, or click "Create a Lesson."
4. On the "Create a Lesson" page, enter a keyword to search for possible videos or a url if you know what video you want to use.
5. After selecting a video you will be moved to the "Create a Lesson" page. Note there are currently two versions of the page with different interfaces, but they have the same functionality and you can switch back and forth by using the link in the upper right hand corner.
6. Change the lesson title, if needed. Add the following content: introduction, questions, discussion, supplemental info, and conclusion.
7. Use the "More" button to preview the lesson or get help.
8. Use the "Publish" button when you are ready to share the lesson by generating a link or sending the lesson to entered email addresses.
9. Watch your email or login to your account to see your dashboard, which will include all the lessons you've created or begun to create, as well as lessons and discussions you've participated in. You can also control settings and notifications in this area.
10. The tab beneath each video on your dashboard tells you what actions you might take, e.g., review students work, starting a lesson, or finishing a lesson.

Research

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