Video in Language Teacher Education

MAKING SCREENCAST VIDEOS

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My context

I've been making screencast videos for teacher training since 2011, when results from my MA research into online courses suggested the pedagogical as well as practical affordances of this. I work as a CELTA trainer and my initial motivation was to be able to run a course to support English native speaker teachers learn the nomenclature of English grammar, but I've since gone on to also use screencast for flipping the classroom and providing CPD for teachers, mentors and teacher educators. I've also got better at it with practice!

Making Screencast videos

Screencast videos are made using software that records whatever is on a computer screen, with audio or video-based narration and are used in a wide range of contexts. They have an advantage over a purely text-based approach in feeling very 'personal' and over the past decade have become a commonplace part of teacher education, either as supplementary support in face to face classes, part of a flipped classroom approach or in wholly online environments such as MOOCs. They are technically easy to make (although time consuming!) but, just as with any teaching, they need to be engaging and there are some useful things to consider when you are making them. A few golden rules are:

• Be clear and concise – don't ramble

• Get a good microphone- having good audio quality is crucial

• Use stimulating visuals

• Keep things moving with animations or webcam narration

• Consider the amount of text that you use – less is usually more.

My video looks at these aspects in more detail and examines some examples that I've made.

Suggested links

If you'd like to see more of my work, you can find it at www.elt-training.com

Tools for making screencast videos include Camtasia (www.techsmith.com) and Screencast-o-matic (good free version – editable for a low yearly subscription) www.screencastomatic.com

Free picture sites mentioned – www.pixabay.com and www.morguefile.com

Useful tutorials on PowerPoint animations – PowerPoint Spice www.youtube/user/powerpointspice

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