

THINK VIDEO

Have you ever gone to YouTube™ to learn something new? How to juggle. How to play piano. How to swing a golf club like Tiger Woods. It's all there, because so many complex concepts can be taught faster and easier through video than through any other medium.

Educators can determine how effective video will be in a classroom, whether you use it to introduce a lesson, start a discussion, demonstrate complex concepts, or merely entertain.

Before you push play, here are four other Ps to consider:



PREVIEW

There is a reason previews are part of every movie experience. In a short time, they can excite, encourage, and create a desire for more. In the classroom, students will learn something from every video; be sure they're learning what you want them to learn. You'll increase the chances if you prepare learners for what they are going to see:

- Have learners read the preview material in the workbook and study new vocabulary words.
- Ask them questions that will be answered in the video.
- Encourage learners to take notes to cement what they're learning and develop critical thinking skills.
- Leave the lights on. A dim room invites dozing.

PARTICIPATE

Take an active, enthusiastic interest. Model good viewing and attention. Encourage learners to participate and share ideas.

PAUSE

Stop periodically to control the instructional pace and flow. Break a single program into manageable segments. Most people find it comfortable to watch 5 to 7 minutes at a time. Also:

- Pause the video to ask questions. That makes it interactive and encourages higher-order thinking skills.
- Watch learners' reactions. If they don't seem to understand something, pause, discuss, and replay the segment if necessary.
- Pause to deal with distractions, and avoid being one.

PRACTICE

Prepare a follow-up practice activity from the companion workbook or another source so learners can practice the skills presented in the video. Working with new information while it's fresh will help sharpen their skills. A teacher's guide can offer a wealth of ideas for preparation and practice activities.