

Foreign Film Festival

How do we allow students to practice using their foreign language speaking skills in a fun and meaningful way? By becoming an actor in a foreign film! This project allows students to be creative while practicing their pronunciation. It also motivates students to continue their study of the foreign language.

Project Description

The class reads and analyzes a short story by an author in the language they are studying and then discusses how to turn this short story into a movie. Students work in small groups to write a section of the script and storyboard for the movie using AppleWorks. The storyboard includes the scene description, dialogue in the foreign language, English subtitles, music, a list of props, locations, and other elements. The class reviews the scripts and storyboards and makes any changes so that the segments of the movie will work well together.

Each student is assigned an onscreen and offscreen role in the moviemaking process. Students use a digital video camera to film the scenes. The students import the video clips into iMovie, edit the clips, and add subtitles, credits, music, and other elements. When the class movie is complete, it is saved in iDVD and burned on a DVD. Family and friends are invited to view the movies in a foreign film festival.

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Analyze a short story in the language they are studying.
- Write a script and storyboard for a movie project.
- Collaborate on a movie project.
- Improve their foreign language pronunciation.
- Improve listening comprehension by viewing others' movies.
- Reinforce classroom lessons by linking the language to a real purpose.

Technology Skills

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Use a word-processing document to write a script and storyboard.
- Use a digital video camera to film scenes.
- Use iMovie to edit a movie that includes video clips, subtitles, credits, and other elements.
- Use iTunes to add audio elements (optional).

Assessment Suggestions

- Students can be evaluated on their knowledge and understanding of a foreign language short story.
- The script can be assessed using a teacher-created rubric.
- Students can be assessed on their speaking proficiency.
- A daily participation grade can be assigned for students' collaborative efforts in filming, editing, creating subtitles, and working in groups.

Tools and Resources

Internet

- Resource for adding audio: <http://www.findsounds.com>
- iLife How-To Guides: <http://www.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/>

Tools

Macintosh computers (computer with SuperDrive), digital video camera, lavalier microphone, tripod, iMovie, iTunes, iDVD, AppleWorks, costumes

Facilitation Tip

Cue cards can be used during filming to help the actors with their lines.

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