

Lesson Plans Using Your Document Camera

Word Walls: Create mini thematic word walls in Word using clip art, print and lay under the document camera during writers workshop or journal time so the students can easily see the words if needed.

Poems and Charts: *Concepts of Print:* Type out the words to the Frog Street color songs or any poem or song in Word, then put under the ELMO and have students follow along on the big screen with a big pointer as you say the poem or sing. You can add clip art to make it look “pretty” and to give contextual clues to the students.

Morning Message: Use the document camera to project your morning message on the big screen. Students can use wikki stix, pointers, highlighters etc to find punctuation, words, spaces, count words etc.

Class Rules: Print your classroom rules in Word using clip art. Project your rules on the screen using the document camera. Have your class helper (leader, star student etc) come to the screen and point to each rule for the class. This is a very effective method. Who can ignore the rules if they are projected on a HUGE screen?

Show and Tell: If you do show and tell make a new rule that all items need to fit under the document camera, and then let students show their items on the big screen. Everybody’s sure to pay attention when they can all see everything, no more “I can’t see!”

Making Words: Using magnetic letters has never been more fun than it is under the document camera! Use your letters to spell words; place some letters (you have secretly already pre-selected which letters) under the camera and let the kids come up and try to spell a sight word from their list.

Environmental Print: Place a piece of environmental print (cereal boxes, Coke cans) under the document camera. Discuss the letters and recite the words on the print together.

Rainbow Writing: Place a sheet of white paper under the document camera and write a large letter on it using a black marker. As you write the letter talk the children through it; “Where should I start writing my letter? At the top or bottom of the paper? O.K., I’m starting at the top and now I’m going straight down and sliding to the right. What letter is it?” Next, have one student at a time come up and trace the letter with crayons using correct letter formation, talk each student through the letter just like you did before. Each student chooses a different color to give it a “rainbow effect”. Post these around the room for educational decorations.

What’s Missing: This is a very fun memory game. Place several objects under the document camera and then use the photo feature on your document camera to take a still image and take one item away. Now have the students guess which object is missing.

Following Directions: Demonstrating how to do a project is always a hassle, the ones in the back can't see the details, they don't pay attention etc. Now, just demo your lessons using the document camera and you will be absolutely amazed how much better your students will become at following directions. Teach cutting skills, gluing skills, how to roll the glue stick up and down, how to squeeze little dots of liquid glue, etc. with the document camera.

Math Manipulatives: You can place any manipulative under your document camera to show your students how to sort, demonstrate one-to-one correspondence, more/less, positional words, longer than/bigger than/taller than, etc. The possibilities are endless!

Science: Place real life objects like leaves, worms, cactus under the document camera to prompt scientific inquiry. Show the students how to plant their seeds using the document camera. Put the dirt in the cup, poke a hole in the dirt, put the seed in the hole, cover the hole, and water it. Then the students plant their seeds independently. Check the progress of the seeds each day under the document camera so the whole class can see.

If you have chicks, caterpillars, etc., in the classroom, show the progress each day.

Texts: Small books that you couldn't otherwise use in large group are great for showing with the document camera (little readers etc). The document camera has replaced the need for expensive big books.

Money: Using the zoom feature on the document camera place coins under the camera to show detail and prompt discussion. This is especially helpful since many coins are now being re-designed and finding pictures of the new coins is somewhat problematic, especially if one of your objectives is teaching money.

Interactive Writing: You can do your interactive writing on paper under the document camera, no more losing the attention of the kids sitting in the back, now everybody can see. The students will love to see their friends writing on the big screen. You can use pencil pointers, wikki stix, highlighting tape, highlighters, etc to point out features in the writing.

Display Student Work: Using the document camera to project student writing in journals or notebooks.

Dictionary Skills: Teachers and students can easily model dictionary usage, layout, etc. by placing an actual dictionary under the camera.

Off-Task Student: Have a student who struggles focusing on his/her work do the assignment under the document camera. With a writing assignment, there are no "right" answers, so it doesn't really matter if the other students can see. Using this method, the teacher is able to check progress on this student from anywhere in the room with a quick glance.

Whiteboard Lines: Project a blank piece of lined paper onto your white board. Now you and your students can write directly on the whiteboard and keep the writing straight and neat.

Giant Timer: Use the document camera to project a countdown timer. A simple kitchen timer works fine. Use it to keep the kids focused on the task, knowing that the clock is ticking, and they will soon be out of time for that assignment.

Sequencing: An Elmo document camera can be used to bring life to sequencing activities such as practicing alphabetical order or numbers on a number line. Students love to come to the document camera and see their work projected for the class.

You will need cards or small pieces of paper with words to be put in alphabetical order (or numbers to be put in order). Label each small piece of paper with a word to be placed in alphabetical order. Give a student several slips of paper with words to put in order under the document camera. Give another student several additional slips of paper to add to the previous words. Continue until all words have been correctly added in order. Discuss as a class, clarifying and making corrections as necessary. As a review activity on a separate occasion, mix the cards and pass out to different students, repeat activity as listed above, adding a shortened time constraint.

Map It: Being able to correctly label a map with key features is an essential skill in geography. Using an Elmo document camera to project a large image allows students to collaboratively practice their recall of geographic places large enough for everyone to see. Prepare a paper with an outline map of the target geographic area. Project the image of the outline map using the Elmo document camera. Call students to the projected image and direct each student to add another feature to accurately to the map, i.e. continent, country, city, state, capitals, mountain ranges, lakes, rivers, oceans, etc. Discuss as a class, making corrections to student labels as necessary. Review with students by covering key features and names with removable sticky notes. Lift the notes to reveal if students have given the right answers. Create a quiz by covering target feature with removable sticky notes with numbers written on them. Have students write their answers on their own paper and turn in.

Flashcard Review: The following activity can be used to review concepts through questions, vocabulary, or required memorization such as multiplication tables. It is an excellent way to achieve class participation with students such as beginning level English Language Learners or students who may be shy to speak during a class discussion. Create a few example flashcards that indicate to students the concepts or vocabulary to be reviewed. Direct each student to create several flash cards of the target concepts. Students can use index cards, or simply use small sheets of notebook paper or printer paper. Have each student come to the projector and place flashcards questions, one at a time, under the Elmo document camera. Direct the rest of the class to answer orally, either by choral response, or by selecting individual students to respond. Choose some of the flashcards to project under the Elmo document camera. Have students copy these questions onto paper. Assign as homework. After sufficient reviewing, select flash cards to include on an assessment.

Conservation Station: An Elmo document camera is a great way to save trees, and your own energy! Use the document camera to project images of notes, quizzes, and worksheets that would normally be photocopied. Save yourself from writing the same series of notes multiple times during the day. Written notes are an excellent way to help students learning English and students with certain learning disabilities who may not otherwise be able to take notes quickly from verbal lectures. Using an Elmo document camera also allows you to face the class while demonstrating written notes, instead of having your back to the class while writing on the board. Prepare notes for classroom lesson. Use a blank sheet of paper to uncover sections as you progress through the notes. While lecturing, use an Elmo document camera to project your notes for all students to see. As a review or as an open notebook quiz, place small sticky notes over strategically important words or phrases in the notes. Assign number to each blank. Project the image with an Elmo document camera. Have students consult their notes to correctly fill in each blank.