

My first iMovie: Integrating Movie Making Into My life And My Future Classroom

My preconceived notion was that creating a video through iMovie would be fun, and thank goodness I was right. I did, however, also have this lurking avoidance and feeling of anxiety. While I spent my high school and college days keeping up with technological trends with the ability to use the newest applications, my life in the last five years has been anything but. The nomadic life of traveling created a shallow relationship between my computer and me, where I only checked my email and cruised the net. In a short time, my memory and technical savvy escaped me. I quickly learned, re-entering into the educational setting that I would need to relearn the skills I had lost and more. So when faced with making an iMovie, I was excited because I remembered the satisfaction of working vigorously on different technology projects in school and being successful; but also nervous... how difficult would it be? How long would it take? Would I know what to do? If I didn't, how would I get help?

Lucky for me, iMovie is incredibly user-friendly. It is organized, simple, and easy for first time users. I watched the five-minute tutorial on how to make an iMovie and then got to work. Ecstatic that I had been randomly taking pictures and videos of my students and school all year long, I imported them into my iMovie application. While movie making doesn't necessarily happen quickly, it is as easy as drag and drop, point and click. It's the kind of work and passing of time that actually is quite enjoyable. Arrangement, text pages, transitions, background music, and voice over recordings are all easy to find, do, and manage. Time consumption is in getting the content into the program, organizing in a way that works toward your message, and then obsessively "playing" until it is perfect.

Producing a short video in iMovie got me jazzed about my newfound ability to make movies. I was very proud of my end product! Also, it opens a whole new world of opportunities. Vacations, holidays, time with my three-year old nephew can now be recorded and made into a coherent story. Suddenly, my movies and pictures don't have to sit idly on my computer; they can be applied to different projects. I think to myself, if I am this excited about making a video and showing it off to people; wouldn't my students be too? Video production is such a great opportunity to highlight content, while also giving students the chance to learn or show off computer skills.

Movie Making in My Future Classroom

Using iMovie and other technology in the classroom is a great teaching tool because it goes along with the fundamental belief in my educational philosophy that learning should be student-centered. iMovie (or other video making applications) lets students be the director of their movie: responsible for knowing the content and having the skills to put it together. It gives students ownership and accountability for their education in an entertaining and interesting format.

I envision my students working together or individually on a video for French or Government class. The project ideas are endless. French students can tell a story in French about themselves, about characters learned in class, or they could make a tourist video for a certain town or province in France or another Francophone country. Government students could take a complicated vocabulary word and make a two-minute video to explain it with specific examples, summarize a court case, or interview a candidate for political office. There are so many ways that video making could be incorporated into these content areas. The possibilities are endless.

My school has iMovie available. Most of my students have phones that produce pictures and/or movies. I am highly motivated to integrate the technology we use on a daily basis (smart phones) with using/learning new software into content-based projects; integrating content and skills to produce an end result that will effortlessly engage students in learning and give them a final product worth showing off.