



Flipped Classroom

Pros and Cons

In the flipped classroom method, students learn basic knowledge before class on their own, using materials provided by the teacher. Class Time is devoted to activities, discussions, or homework, where the teacher is able to spend more one-to-one time.

Benefits of the flipped classroom method are that students learn at their own pace—they can pause, stop and rewind the videos and review the material as much as needed. Students can also learn according to their learning style or preference, whether more visual or auditory, read and write or kinaesthetic. When back in class, students get help when they need it the most.

Another great advantage of the flipped classroom model is that students start with remembering and understanding alone. According to Bloom's Taxonomy, these two are the lower steps of the learning pyramid and therefore the easiest ones. For higher order thinking skills, such as applying and analysing content, students can benefit from the teacher's and peers' assistance. In the traditional classroom setting the opposite happens and students often face difficulties in applying new knowledge.

The flipped classroom method is also good for absences. Students who have skipped a class can easily catch up, being able to find online material and videos, such as assignments to reinforce their learning.

In the traditional setting most of the time in class is devoted to lectures to cover the topics of the school curriculum and teachers struggle to find time for more engaging activities. Thanks to the flipped classroom learning model, teachers are able to free up some class time that can be devoted to active learning activities, formative assessment and cooperative learning.

If in class activities are designed to be engaging and meaningful, students are provided opportunities for review and further improvement. Constant feedback allows teachers to follow their student's progress and prevents bad results in final tests.

Moreover, in active learning activities, students get the chance to interact with the teacher and with each other. With the flipped classroom method, the teacher will be able to support students, both one to one and in small groups. In this way, on the one hand, students will increase their self-confidence and motivation by having the chance to interact in class. On the other hand the relationship and trust with their teacher will improve tremendously. Also the classroom atmosphere will benefit from more interaction among peers, so that disciplinary problems may decrease.



In the flipped classroom method, students are asked to take ownership of their learning. This may be at the same time an advantage and disadvantage of the method. One of the biggest concerns for teachers willing to implement the flipped classroom method is exactly what to do if/when students come unprepared to class. There are different strategies to prevent and cope with that, such as monitoring if students have watched the video or viewed the material and send a gentle reminder prior to the lesson, or set up a short formative assessment activity to start the class.

In the end it is a major life lesson for students to learn how to organise their studying and to face the consequences of their actions.

Among the disadvantages of the flipped classroom method, studies relate student resistance to the flipped classroom, observing that flipped activities require more rigorous work and thinking from students in class. At the same time, the flipped classroom requires careful planning and may add a huge load of work to teachers at the beginning, when they have to record videos, organise a platform to share material and design assessment, both formative and summative.

The flipped classroom method, if not carefully and intentionally implemented, can become as if not even more boring than the traditional method and students can feel lost in their learning path.

Therefore it is crucial for teachers to fully understand the idea of the flipped classroom model before implementing it.