Using Flipgrid in Your Classroom: Fostering Meaningful Discussions

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Flipgrid (http://www.flipgrid.com) is designed to further student classroom conversation and discussion in a fun and interactive way. The ability to share ideas, opinions, and thoughts in 90 seconds or less is what makes the tool so unique and why, in this integration document, we focus on a more exploratory approach to creating discussion questions/prompts.

While Flipgrid can be used to demonstrate students' factual knowledge on a topic, we encourage you to create more reflective, open-ended questions to enhance their critical thinking skills. The beauty of Flipgrid is that it puts students on a level playing field which keeps them from feeling embarrassed or left out. For example, if you have students that require varying levels of instruction, the questions you pose can be general enough to tailor to their individual needs.

The opportunities for generating meaningful discourse are endless and this guide will help you think about forming questions in new and creative ways while also tailoring them to your classroom needs.

Note: The various examples provided in the sections below can be modified and used across domains by extending the focus of each question to match the target domain.

Integration Support

If you have any technical questions please visit our FAQ and support site at http://flipgrid.emcl.com/support or contact us support@emcl.com and someone from our support team will get back to you promptly.

Best Practices for Flipgrid

- Based on more than 100,000 videos to date, we have found that successful Flipgrid questions should be short, open-ended, and more qualitative in style regardless of domain.

- To encourage freedom of expression and creativity in student responses, do not include scores for initial questions. If needed, scores can later be assigned in your classroom gradebook or course management software to provide points for completion, quality of response, etc.

- **Seed** the question on the grid by first recording a video response yourself. This way you can model a response for students and they can get the gist of what is to be expected. Learn more in the **Icebreakers** section below.

- Feature one or two student responses on your course website every week by copying the embed code and pasting it into your website (as long as it allows embedded content). Steps on sharing video responses are provided in the next section, **Flipgrid Admin System**.

Flipgrid Admin System

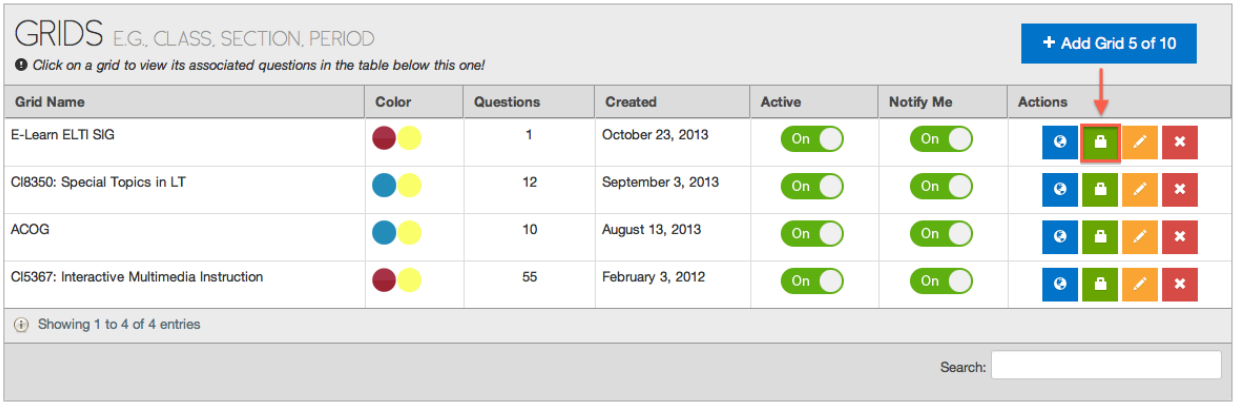
Flipgrid Admin System

Before we dive into the types of questions to ask students, let's first get to know the admin system (http://www.flipgrid.com/manage) features a little better. Since this is where you might find yourself spending the majority of your time creating grids, questions, and viewing responses, it will be helpful to know right away which toggle switches should be turned on or off depending on the level of security you would like to enforce.

Security and Privacy Settings

To ensure your grid and questions are secure, you might want to set the security and privacy options first.

After creating a grid, select the green lock button in the "Actions" column.



The Security and Privacy Settings screen will open with four different options:

If the **Set Password** setting is set to "On," anyone who tries to access a grid, question, or video response will be required to enter a password. Passwords are case sensitive, so keep that in mind when creating one.

Moderating a grid will let you privately view videos on the admin site before they are posted to the grid. Set the toggle switch to "On" if you want to preview and approve each submitted video. You can then decide whether you want to make the video "Active" (visible) via the Responses table.

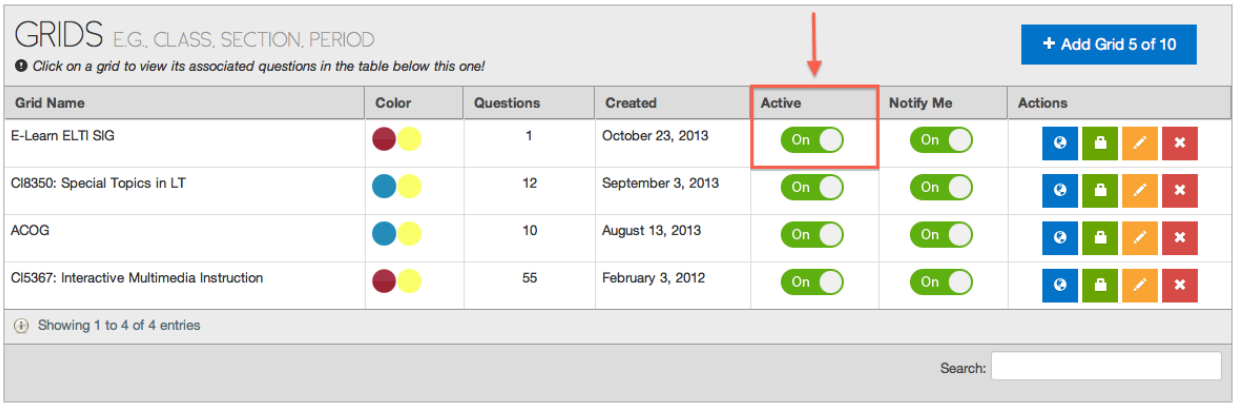
Set **Hide Social Links** to "On" to block students from sharing their videos on Twitter, Facebook, etc.

To keep the questions and video responses even more secure, turn the **Hide Direct URLs** to "On." This will disable any direct links to questions or video responses to that grid.

Note: For K12 and audiences under 13 years of age, it is good practice to lock the grid (setting a password), hide the social links and hide the direct URLs. Keep in mind that if all the switches are set to "On" then you will have the *most secure* grid possible.

Activating a Grid

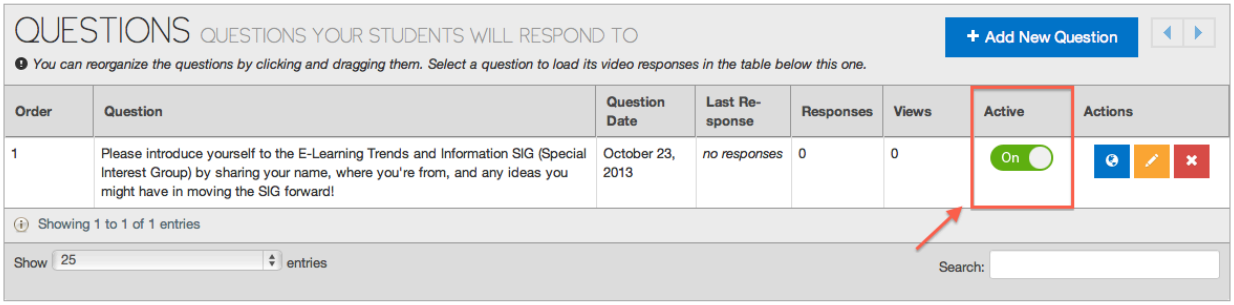
In order for students to access the grid itself, the grid needs to be active and accessible. In the Grids table, make sure the toggle switch is set to "On" under the "Active" column.



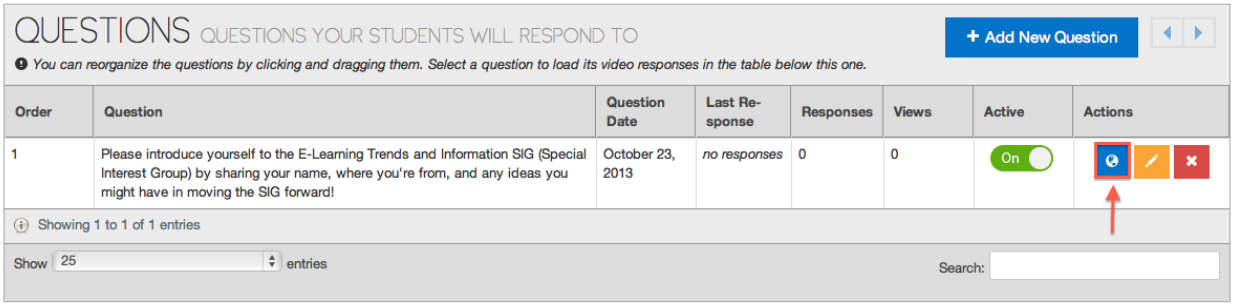
Note: The default setting when creating new grids is for it to immediately be active. If you want to deactivate the grid until you have your settings in place switch the "Active" column to "Off."

Activating a Question

In order for students to answer a question, the question needs to be active. In the Questions table, make sure the toggle switch is set to "On" under the "Active" column.

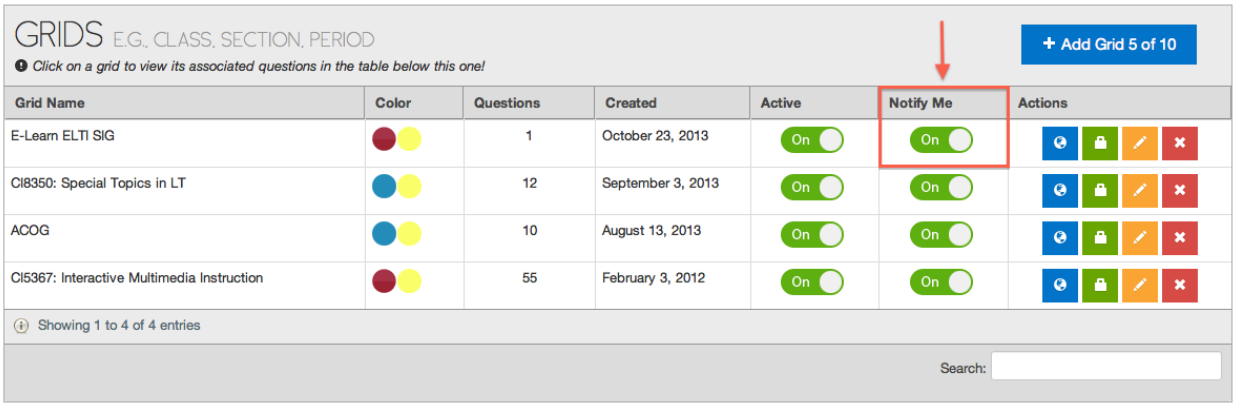


For easy integration into your class, copy the question's URL by clicking on the blue button in the "Actions" column and pasting it into your course website or share it via email.



Video Response Notifications

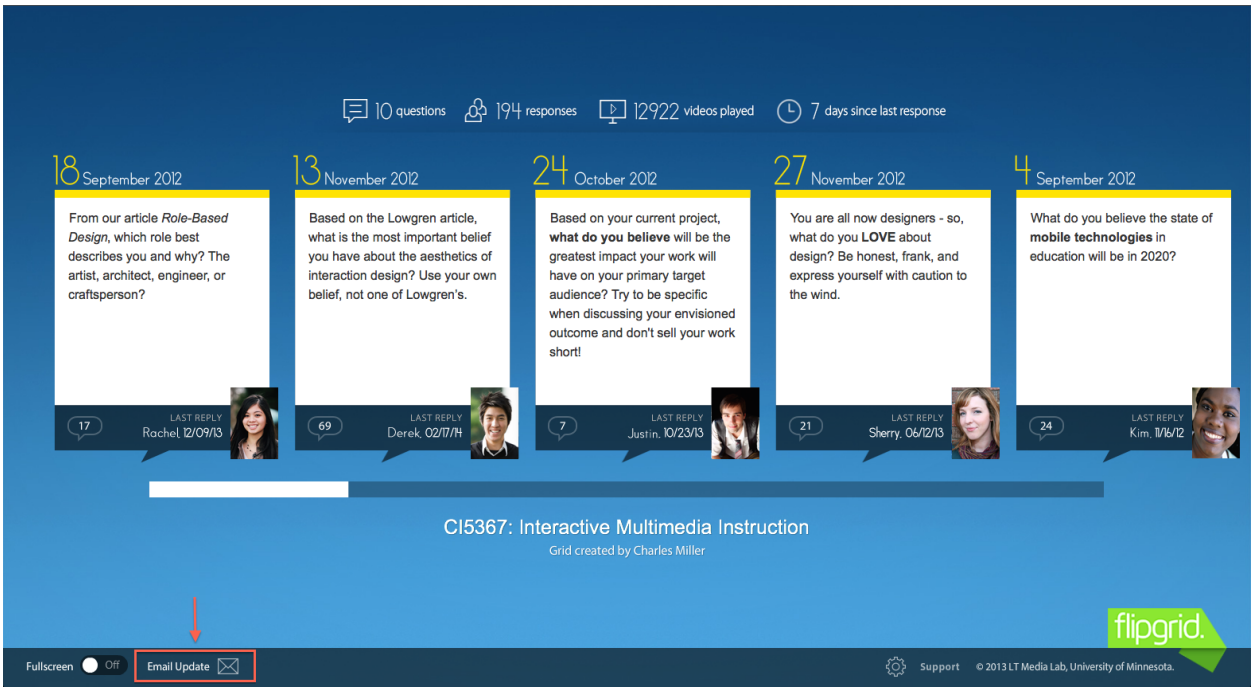
When your students record new responses, you can choose to receive email notifications every time a video is submitted to the grid. If you wish to receive notifications, set the toggle switch to "On" under the "Notify Me" column in the Grids table.



Note: The default setting when creating new grids is for you to always receive email notifications for new responses. To stop receiving emails, set the toggle switch to "Off."

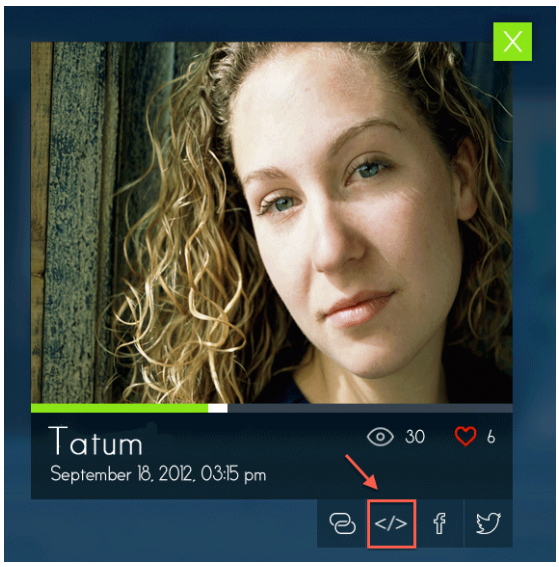
Email Updates for Students

Students can easily be notified of new questions you post to the grid by signing up with their email address via the grid's main page. Direct your students to sign up for email updates by having them click on the "Email Update" button on the lower left hand corner of the screen.

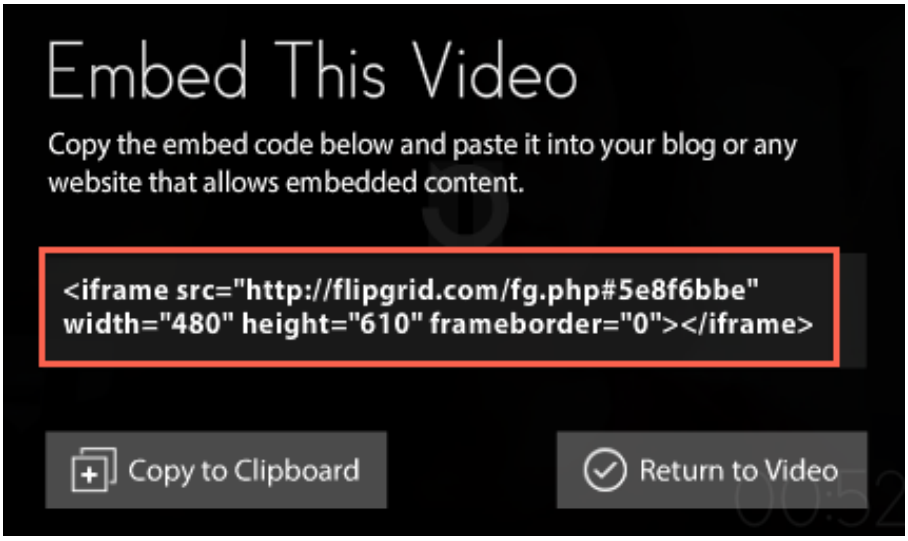


Sharing Video Responses

To feature individual student video responses on your course website or blog, you will first need to make sure the **Hide Social Links** toggle switch is turned "Off" so that you are able to view the social media options. Once you select the response you'd like to feature, select on the student's video via Flipgrid and click on the **</>** button located at the bottom of the video player.



Then, copy the embed code and paste it into your course website.



Icebreakers

Icebreakers

The best way to use Flipgrid for the very first time is to make the first question all about your students. Avoid asking about the class or a project until you provide an icebreaker where students can talk about and express themselves. Icebreakers are introductory-type questions that are a great way to relieve any stress or anxiety students may have with recording themselves on video. Scaffold the students by first answering the question yourself to show how it's done. Seeing a video already on the grid makes it a little bit easier for students to relax and get started.

Icebreakers are also great in a first-use scenario to get any technology related issues out of the way (i.e., setting up the webcam, positioning oneself in front of the camera, etc.).

Question/ Prompts Examples:

- Introduce yourself to the class. What is your name and where are you from?
- What was your favorite part about summer vacation?
- What kind of hobbies do you have?
- What are you most looking forward to in Language Arts 101 this year?
- In Spanish, introduce yourself to your classmates. Be sure to answer the following questions: ¿Cómo te llamas? ¿De dónde eres? ¿Cuántas clases tomas? ¿Cuál es tu clase favorita?

Weekly Questions

Weekly Questions

Using Flipgrid for weekly questions will not only keep students more engaged in the subject matter but also provide them with the opportunity to practice their oral and communication skills. Make it a point to tie the questions to the week's activity such as a book report, a science project, mathematical equations, etc. Active use of Flipgrid will be sure to keep the discussion going outside the classroom.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Foreign Language** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students introduce themselves and their families in the target language.
- Have students reflect on culture readings and activities in the target language.

Intermediate/Advanced

- Pair up two students and have them role-play different scenarios (e.g., ordering food at a restaurant, going to a concert, etc.) in the target language.
- Have students describe in the target language a landmark or location they visited.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Language Arts** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students share what kind of books they like to read and why (suspense, non-fiction, mysteries, etc.)
- Have students give book reports and share what they loved about the book and why.
- Have students take on the role of a character in the book and explain their point of view on a topic.

Intermediate/Advanced

- Pose a creative storytelling question where one student begins the story, then the next student views the first video, then adds to the story, and so on…
- Have students recite a poem they wrote.
- Have students (in groups) present on a topic together, perform skits or tell stories.
- Have students create a "book trailer." Similar to a movie trailer, the student will sell the plot to the class without giving away the ending.
- Have students do an author study and role-play where one student is the author and another is the interviewer.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Math** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students perform measurement activities by using straws and twist ties to measure, make shapes and record the properties.
- Pair up two students and have one be the store owner and the other a customer to teach money counting.
- Have students explain a math word problem.
- Have students practice telling the time on an analog clock and explain the difference between the hour hand and the minute hand.
- Have students share their favorite math memory tool (e.g., PEMDAS)

Intermediate/Advanced

- Have students explain math concepts and provide real life examples.
- Have students explain a proof and hold up the completed proof.
- Write a poem about math vocabulary word (e.g., acute, obtuse, right angles) to integrate cross-curriculum goals.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Science** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students name and discuss scientists they've learned about. What is a scientist? Why is science important?
- Have students explain why or why they cannot see themselves in a science profession (this is a good way to measure students' self-efficacy).

Intermediate/Advanced

- Have students reflect on a science experiment- what worked and what didn't? Why did things work/not work?
- Have students discuss a science project they found to be the most interesting.
- Have students draw a diagram of a cell from memory and explain all of its components and functions.
- Have students share their process and the stages they took to complete an experiment.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Life Sciences** Classroom

Beginner

- Ask students what they most want to learn in their home economics, shop class, etc.
- Have students critique each other's projects.

Intermediate/Advanced

- Have students explain and share their Life Sciences projects (e.g., cooking techniques, shop projects, etc.)
- Have students give a tutorial of what they made and how they made it (before and after).

Flipgrid Uses in a **Programming** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students discuss the role of programming in the everyday products they use (e.g., phone, tablet, video games).
- Have students talk about different programming professions. Do they see themselves in the field? Why?
- Have students talk about when they were first introduced to computer programming. What is programming? What draws them to programming?

Intermediate/Advanced

- Have students share a project they developed and explain the steps they took to complete it. What was the hardest part about building it? Most fun?
- Have students critique their programming project.

Flipgrid Uses in a **Communication/Business** Classroom

Beginner

- Have students give an elevator speech on their background and skills.
- Have students present a product or PR announcement.

Intermediate/Advanced

- Public speaking assignments are a great way to practice talking to a group in a more controlled environment like Flipgrid. Have students engage in an online debate and share their point of view on an issue.
- Have students simulate a short job interview.

Exploratory Questions

Exploratory Questions

Exploratory questions are not tied to a specific project or task but can be used at any time throughout a class to motivate students to develop their discourse on any given topic. They don't need to necessarily be graded assignments but a way to keep the conversation going.

Question/ Prompts Examples:

- Have students watch a video and share their thoughts.
- Have students read about a news event or something interesting they read to share with the class (via Channel One News, Wonderopolis, etc.)
- Have students share and define a word of the week and then use it in a sentence.

End of Unit Questions

End of Unit Questions

End of unit questions are summative in style. They are used as a way to gauge the student's learning and assess their understanding on certain topics. The questions should be tailored to meet the needs of a larger project, midterm, or unit/semester in the classroom.

Question/ Prompts Examples:

- What did you learn most during this semester or throughout the course of this project?
- What did you enjoy most during this semester or throughout the course of this project?
- What could you have done to improve your learning of the topic?
- What questions do you still have?
- For cooperative learning projects: How did you like working in a group? Did you meet your goals? Share any struggles you encountered.

Teacher End-of-Semester Evaluation

Teacher End-of-Semester Evaluation

The teacher end-of-semester evaluation questions are ways for you, the teacher, to improve your teaching, class discussions, resources, project ideas, etc. This is a way to build trust between you and your students and ensure that their views are valued and taken into consideration for future classes.

Question/ Prompts Examples:

- Were the class assignments and projects explained well?
- Was the style of projects interesting? What would you like to see more of?
- Did you receive relevant and timely feedback from your teacher?

Using the Flipgrid iPad App

Using the Flipgrid iPad App

The Flipgrid iPad app allows students to explore their environment in ways a computer cannot. If iPads are available, pose questions that will require the students to interact with the world around them. The Flipgrid app should motivate you to create more interactive and engaging assignments.

Question/ Prompts Examples:

- Have students describe their classroom in a target language while walking around and identifying objects.
- Pair off students and have them show and explain a chemical reaction as it's happening.
- Have one student be the videographer and hold the iPad, directing a skit or scene with one or multiple students.