

**LESSON PLAN 37: TEACHING WITH TED TALKS**

**Objective:** Using videos of expert speakers to introduce new ideas and start discussions with your students. **Age range:** 10-18

Something a bit different this time. Check out this new wiki for ideas on videos to use in your classroom and for student projects.

**WHAT IS TED?**

Standing for Technology, Entertainment, Design, TED started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from those three worlds. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Its annual conference brings together some of the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes). People you can watch range from Bill Clinton and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, to Jane Goodall and Bono.

TED's website ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)) has about 200 of the best talks available to view and use for free. They cover a broad set of topics, including science, arts and design, politics, education, culture, business, global issues, technology and development, and entertainment.

**TEACHING WITH TED**

Although TED has the potential to be a great teaching resource, its sheer size means many educational gems go under the classroom radar ... until now. There's a new wiki that's sharing ideas about how these talks can be turned into broader discussions, projects, and actions for your students. It's called 'Teaching with TED' (<http://teachingwithted.pbworks.com/>) and links videos to teaching concepts and ideas for discussion in class. Each page contains not only the original TED talks but also additional references, resources, and activities about the topic and/or speaker.

It looks like a great place to find thought-provoking ideas and topics for class discussion.

**YOU WILL NEED**

Computer and Internet access.

**METHOD**

1. Simply visit the Teaching with TED wiki (or you can venture the TED website itself) and see what's there. Hopefully you'll find something that you can build a lesson around – or add to a project.

2. Here are a couple of examples of how TED talks can be used as springboards for further discourse, exploration, reflection, and action with your students:



▶ **ONCE UPON A SCHOOL – DAVE EGGERS TALKS ABOUT THIS EDUCATION PROJECT.**



▶ **DIGS UP DINOSAURS – PAUL SERENO DISCUSSES ANIMAL EVOLUTION.**



▶ **A DIFFERENT WAY TO THINK ABOUT CREATIVITY – WRITER ELIZABETH GILBERT LOOKS AT THE CONCEPT OF CREATIVITY.**

3. At the end of the right-hand sidebar there's a section where teachers are starting to add their own suggestions, entitled 'Real world examples of how TED has been used in the classroom'. It's just getting off the ground and there's only a handful so far but they're real life experiences and well worth a look.

4. In another section, there are other suggestions for potential teaching videos. These include:

- Arthur Benjamin – Mathemagic
- Richard Preston – forest canopy
- Sirena Huang – Nine-year-old virtuoso violinist
- Robert Lang – The science of origami
- Erin McKean – Dictionary editor
- Hans Rosling – Understanding the developing world

**SUBMIT YOUR OWN SUGGESTIONS**

Teaching with TED is a wiki, a community site, which you can get involved with. So, if you have ideas about teaching with TED Talks you can submit your ideas.