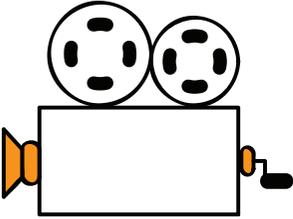


# USING FILMS FOR LEARNING

There is a lot being done in education to promote Science, Math and other traditional subjects. It's time to be more creative and use the powerful medium of films in learning.

Quest Alliance is a non-profit trust working to bridge the education and skills divide by enabling self-learning for young people 10-35 years old.

Quest is fuelled by research, strengthened by partnerships and driven by innovation and technology.



## How would I use films in the classroom?

Film is a rich and powerful media that can be used flexibly in the classroom context:

- Films can be used as a **complement** to the main text, like, showing the movie version of a book that is being read in class.
- For students who are not very outgoing or extroverted, being allowed to make their own short films can be a powerful and unthreatening **way to share their voice** with the rest of the class.
- Videos around a problem can be played and stopped at strategic points to help the students exercise their **problem-solving skills**.
- **Reflective discussions** can be facilitated by the teacher following the screening of a film.

- Filmed stories are a great way to **demonstrate practical life skills** like communicating assertively, collaborating within a team, being empathetic, and so on.
- Topics **considered taboo**, like discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, economic background or ethnicity, can be **dealt with in a sensitive manner** through films.
- **Picking up language skills** can be done more effectively and engagingly through films.

Watch this video to know more about the benefits of using films in learning.

### QUESTION 12



Films and learning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNcgeSB6k5A&feature=youtu.be>

# What are the steps I need to follow to incorporate films in our curriculum?

## **1 Research**

Study & research the target audience, their comfort with different media, what learning styles work best for them, and so on.

## **2 Conceptualization**

Formulate what topic is needed to be taught and begin to develop ideas around how to deliver it.

## **3 Production**

Work on producing the actual film that will be used in the classroom.

## **4 Curation**

There exists a lot of great content in the cinematic world, and sometimes, it is more feasible and efficient to curate this. Ensure that the content is customized to make it most relevant to your particular content and that the permissions for sharing and using the content are in place.

## **5 Supplementary Activities**

Create worksheets and other activities that will help facilitate discussions on the topic.



## What are some things to watch out for in this process?

Despite their immense potential as a medium, using films in the classroom comes with some caveats and issues that we may need to be aware of:

- **Retain the learners' attention.** Films for a young audience should ideally not be longer than 10 to 15 minutes to ensure their complete engagement.
- **Maintain quality.** We must ensure that films being produced for learning should not compromise on their artistic quality or merit, and the same rigour that would go into making a film for a general audience should also be exercised here.
- **Curate material carefully.** In some instances, curating existing content can be a quicker and better solution than producing new films. However, do ensure that the owners of the content are informed and are in agreement with its use.
- **Ensure adequate training of the facilitators.** Films cannot stand on their own in the classroom, and facilitators should be trained on how to lead discussions and deliver the session to help infer and reach the intended outcomes.
- **Keep it relevant.** Ensure that the curated or created content is relevant to the lesson

that you want to deliver in the classroom to avoid it becoming a mere distraction.

- **Don't overestimate the role of films.** While films are a great way to get learners and educators engaged, do keep in mind that the facilitator is at the centre of all learning and cannot be replaced by technology or multimedia.

## What are some limits or challenges in this process?

- **Challenges of scale** are a major problem in this field because of the large number of young students in the country.
- **Standardization of delivery** may not always be possible, even if the content is the same, due to the diverse teaching styles that are practised.
- Making socially educational films are not always **commercially viable**, which limits many filmmakers from venturing too far into this field.
- Sometimes the **costs around getting the multimedia tools** necessary to use films in learning can be quite high for educational institutions.

## A story about how using films has impacted a learner

In a school in Ahmedabad, there was a child who was quite isolated in the classroom. He did not have a lot of friends and no one would really talk to him.

As part of its program to include cinema in the classroom, the school screened the film “Little Terrorist”, a story about a young boy from Pakistan who strays across the border into India while playing cricket. The boy is protected and cared for by an orthodox Hindu family despite being a Muslim and is eventually helped back to his home village.

The effect of this was astounding as the students in the classroom became much more empathetic and receptive toward him, and the boy too learned to open up and participate in the classroom more proactively.

“Let’s just say, the boy is not eating lunch alone anymore.”

- **Sultan Syed, EduMedia**

## What benefits would I get from introducing learning through film in my school?

### Students:

- Discover their own creativity.
- Have more fun engaging with the curriculum.
- Learn important life skills through practical demonstration.

### Parents:

- Understand their children's psychological and emotional needs better.
- Realize ways of imparting values to their children.
- Find creative parenting solutions.

### Teachers:

- Help teachers develop professionally.
- Find creative ways to deliver a particular topic.
- Understand their students' psychological and emotional needs better.

“We have one the youngest populations in the world, but we make the least number of films for children.”

- Sultan Syed, EduMedia



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