Using Social Media and YouTube in Your Classroom

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Please note:

Instructors should familiarize themselves with any copyright issues that may arise regarding the use of YouTube material in the classroom. Here are two links providing information on YouTube copyright issues:

Copyright Infringement Notification: http://www.youtube.com/t/dmca_policy

General Information on YouTube: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YouTube

1. Finding YouTube Videos

The way I usually find videos is by going to www.YouTube.com and typing in key words, titles of particular works, or names of artists/authors, e.g. *Mittagspause (Lunch Break)*, *Mackie Messer (Mack the Knife)*, Herbert Groenemeyer, Rainer Maria Rilke, etc. I then view the videos that come up to decide whether I can use them in my course(s). This can be quite time consuming but I usually find very worthwhile material.

It is important to always screen the videos for appropriateness of content before using them in class. For example, I wanted to do a unit on friendship and looked for songs with the word *Freunde* (Friends) in the title. Most songs were fine, but one by the band Tokio Hotel was full of expletives.

2. Preparing a YouTube Video for Classroom Use

Once you have found a suitable video, watch it carefully and decide how you can use it in class and for what activities it may be appropriate. Many videos are suitable for a variety of independent as well as group activities. They can be effective tools for reviewing, enhancing, and building skills and competencies in many subject areas, e.g. in my intermediate language courses I may use the same video to achieve different learning objectives by assigning the following tasks:

- with a partner or in a group, describe the image or the scene in as much detail as possible
- play the video without sound and guess what it is about based on the images you see
- play only the sound, list all the information you understand, compare your notes with a fellow student, and speculate what the text is about

- play only the sound and fill in the words you understand on the work sheet
- write down questions about the video and try to get the answers from your classmates
- play the video without sound and describe what is going on as it happens to your partner
- write a dialog based on the visual and/or audio information you have
- watch the video and come up with ideas on how the story may continue
- watch the video and summarize the main events
- stop the video at a specific image and describe the scene to a classmate who cannot see the screen and who have to draw the scene based on the information you provide
- based on the content of the video, describe a similar experience or related event in your life

3. Sample YouTube Videos

Rowan Atkinson, *Lunch Break*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS1ePEZZCDY

Herbert Groenemeyer, *Alkohol*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSR8naOqFbM

Wise Guys, *Meine Deutschlehrerin*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcKrmGW7nDM&feature=related

4. Information and Links on YouTube and Copyright /Fair Use Issues

The information below was taken from: http://www.youtube.com/t/howto_copyright

Copyright Tips

What is copyright? Copyright is a form of protection provided for original works of authorship, including literary, dramatic, musical, graphic and audiovisual creations. "Copyright" literally means the right to copy, but has come to mean that body of exclusive rights granted by law to copyright owners for protection of their work.

What is copyright infringement? Copyright infringement occurs when a copyrighted work is reproduced, distributed, performed, publicly displayed, or made into a derivative work without the permission of the copyright owner.

Posting copyright-infringing content can lead to the termination of your account, and possibly monetary damages if a copyright owner decides to take legal action (this is serious—you can get sued!). Below are some guidelines to help you determine whether your video is eligible or whether it infringes someone else's copyright. You can also find copyright FAQs within our Help Center.

As a general matter, we at YouTube respect the rights of artists and creators, and hope you will work with us to keep our community a creative, legal and positive experience for everyone, including artists and creators.