

What if they don't watch the video?

A common question that is asked about flipped classrooms is, “Ok, so what happens if they don't watch the video?” What they are really asking is, “how do we require accountability?”

I think this is a great question. I think it also reveals one of the greatest benefits of flipping the classroom. To ensure accountability, students will be assigned a comprehension strategy to use while they watch the assigned video or complete the reading, or whatever. Have we ever read a paragraph or watched something on TV and then five minutes later, can't remember what we did? If you have then you are human.

Comprehension strategies such as Cornell Notes help a student focus on the material – and they create documents that can be checked to make sure students do the work. This interaction with the material is also the magic in the method. The student does not absent mindedly copy what I say – they learn how to construct meaning on their own. They begin to learn how to learn for themselves. Some might argue that “we don't teach them.” It is the process of grappling with the material that allows the student to create their own mental models. What a great life lesson! They note points of confusion and we clear it up in class the next day. My role is then to help build *understanding* – not tell them what to memorize.

They cannot just copy someone else's notes – good literacy strategies require the user to generate unique questions, insights, and summaries. Our technology is also a huge asset. Students can count on having short quizzes on a regular basis as they come to class. They will not be prepared if they have not done their work at home.

If I discover a student has not done the work at home, they will simply have to watch the video and take notes in class – like they always have.

These students will be provided a quiet area to work that is apart from the other class activities. They are not being punished – but I believe they will regret not being able to participate in the class activities. These students will then need to complete their assignments at home that evening.

The comprehension/ literacy strategies and quizzes will account for 25% of their course grade. Students who expect to do well in class will have to do the work in order to be successful. Additionally, if a student uses Khan Academy or Flexbooks, there is a record of their activity (as long as they log into the site).

Lastly, there are always a few individuals who find a way to circumvent the rules and avoid the work. I believe most students will do what is expected of them, particularly when they discover the benefits of this classroom model.