SHORT AND SWEET
Using Short Films to Promote Creativity and Communication
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OVERVIEW

1. The renaissance of the short film.
2. The benefits of using short films.
3. What creativity is and why it is important.
4. Activities designed around short films.
5. Using short films to get students to create their own narratives.
6. Getting students to create their own short films.
The renaissance of the short film
The benefits of using short films
1. View several times
2. Different activity each time
3. Great dramatic impact
4. Students love stories
5. Innovative and creative
6. Prompts for oral & written communication
What is being creative?
Is language teaching a creative profession?
"Creativity is a key that will open many doors. It can trigger many changes for the better in a vast array of human endeavours. Teaching included. And yet it has always puzzled me that people rarely think of teachers as creative professionals. Architects? Yes. Musicians? Yes. But teachers? You must be joking."

Chaz Pugliese
“And yet, creativity, is in my view, any teacher’s bread and butter. We live in a culture that doesn’t encourage us to be creative unless there’s a chance we are going to strike it big with a commercial ‘hit’. Creativity, like so much else in our world, has been co-opted into consumerism and its worth calculated by how much money it generates.”

Chaz Pugliese
“The teaching world is no exception: the big pull is towards standardisation, exams, regimented syllabi, a senseless ‘don’t rock the boat attitude’ - intellectual shortsight that will do nobody a favour. The Victorian art critic John Ruskin, when asked why he was teaching factory workers to draw, said ‘I’m not teaching them to draw, I’m teaching them to see.’”

Chaz Pugliese
“Isn’t learning a language, too, a way of seeing anew?”

Chaz Pugliese
We offer a provisional description of creativity as: 'thinking and activity in language education that is novel, valuable, and open-ended, and that helps to enrich learning in our students and ourselves'.
THE C GROUP MANIFESTO

• creativity can greatly enhance the quality of our personal and professional lives
• everyone has the potential to be creative in life and at work
• all too often this potential is frustrated by institutional pressures
• it is possible to change this situation
• it will be easier to achieve this by working together than by working separately
Creativity in the English language classroom
Edited by Alan Maley and Nik Peachey
What do you do to be creative?
have fun

carry a notebook everywhere

go somewhere new

got an idea? write it down.

LISTEN TO NEW MUSIC

take breaks

collaborate

count your blessings

allow yourself to make mistakes

sing in the shower

get away from the computer

take risks

get feedback

practice...practice...practice

don’t give up

read a page out of the dictionary

get lots of rest

surround yourself with creative people

clean your workspace

break the rules

don’t force it

finish something
5 Quit beating yourself up
TAKE RISKS 20
How are going to be creative in your language learning this year?
Manifesto
“Nothing is original. Steal from anywhere that resonates with inspiration or fuels your imagination. Devour old films, new films, music, books, paintings, photographs, poems, dreams, random conversations, architecture, bridges, street signs, trees, clouds, bodies of water, light and shadows. Select only things to steal from that speak directly to your soul. If you do this, your work (and theft) will be authentic. Authenticity is invaluable; originality is non-existent. And don’t bother concealing your thievery—celebrate it if you feel like it. In any case, always remember what Jean-Luc Godard said: “It’s not where you take things from—it’s where you take them to.”

— Jim Jarmusch
THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
DO WHAT YOU LOVE, AND DO IT OFTEN.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB, QUIT.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, STOP WATCHING TV.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, STOP; THEY WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU START DOING THINGS YOU LOVE.
STOP OVER ANALYZING, ALL EMOTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
WHEN YOU EAT, APPRECIATE EVERY LAST BITE.
OPEN YOUR MIND, ARMS, AND HEART TO NEW THINGS AND PEOPLE, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR DIFFERENCES. ASK THE NEXT PERSON YOU SEE WHAT THEIR PASSION IS, AND SHARE YOUR INSPIRING DREAM WITH THEM.
TRAVEL OFTEN, GETTING LOST WILL HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF. SOME OPPORTUNITIES ONLY COME ONCE, SEIZE THEM.
LIFE IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET, AND THE THINGS YOU CREATE WITH THEM. SO GO OUT AND START CREATING.
LIFE IS SHORT. LIVE YOUR DREAM AND SHARE YOUR PASSION.

"THE HOLSTEE MANIFESTO" ©2009 WRITTEN BY DAVE, MIKE & FABIAN DESIGN BY RACHAEL WWW.HOLSTEE.COM/MANIFESTO
My Own Manifesto

Live and let live. Every single thought deserves respect, even when somebody doesn’t see eye to eye with others. Feel utterly proud when giving a hand to someone even though they haven’t asked for it. Don’t turn a blind eye to someone who needs your help. Problems crop up every day. Don’t let them get you down. Don’t let them shatter your dreams. Try to solve them on your own. Listen to every single piece of advice you are given. If you have to tell a white lie, don’t be afraid. The truth is sometimes cruel. If you feel like showing your love for someone, don’t be ashamed. Perhaps this person feels the same. Not only is time golden. Health is golden too. Feeling good is amazing. Money can bring fake friends, the old ones stay forever. Real friendship is priceless. Enjoy yourself without hurting anyone. Have the time of your life as often as you can. Little details can turn something dull into something funny. Count your blessings every day.
You only have one life
Be happy
Try to change all the things that you don’t like
Live each moment with intensity, live intensely
Think before speaking
Be coherent between what you think and what you say
Not impose, dialogue
Put love in your life
Learn for every mistake, yours or others
Don’t worry about things that haven’t solution, take care of that can be solved
Help and let yourself be helped
Learn to forgive and begin forgiving yourself
Treat others as you would be treated
Strengthen yourself and you'll avoid obstacles.

Write your thoughts and reflect about them.

Enjoy all the moments in your life as it could be the last day.

Follow your dreams, you can get what you want.

Positive thinking will push you forwards.

You are a creative person, believe it and do the most of it.

Smile and don't get cross.

Be sporty, breathe properly, be conscious about it.
MANIFESTO

- Make happiness the purpose of your life.
- If you want to give a big present, give a smile.
- Life is a jump, don't think about it, just do it!
- Help people, you will be helping yourself.
- The more you dream, the more you live.
- Today is the first day of the rest of your life.
- Think of your first kiss, think in innocence.
- Will you be there tomorrow? Enjoy today.
- Search for somebody who makes you happy.
- When there is a will there's a way.

Let it Be
When you wake up in the morning,
you have a new day to discover,
make it easy and be happy.

Enjoy every minute of the day like
the last minute of your life.

Give a kiss to your mother, give a
kiss to your partner, give a kiss to
your friend. Don't you feel happiness?

Feel the energy, share your love...

LIVE YOUR LIFE
- Flush your troubles away!
  Do what you like!
- Fulfill your dreams
- Learn new things everyday
- Kick out your worries
  Do help others.

Life is too short to be worried
Express yourself.
Forget your pains
No more drama

Smile, laugh and love 😊❤️
Forgive
Live everyday as if it would be the last day!!!
Travel as far as you can.
Meet different cultures

Traveling is the only thing that you buy and makes you richer.
Nothing great was achieved without enthusiasm.
Nothing is impossible.

From the impossible to the possible it's only you beneath.
1. Live your Life
2. Don’t think too much
3. Don’t lose opportunities. They pass only once.
4. Corri diem
5. Be open-minded
6. Make your dreams come true
7. Smile all the time
8. Spend time with your friends
If you could travel to 11 countries in 44 days, where would you travel to?
MOVE
What would you eat and drink in these countries?
What could you learn in these countries?
My epic journey

If I could travel to 11 countries in 44 days I would start with France because it’s near to Spain and I like France so much. Then I would go to Germany, Switzerland and Finland because these are countries that I haven’t seen. After this I would fly to United Kingdom and then I would across the Atlantic Ocean to visit Brasil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Cuba, USA and Japan.

If I had the chance I would learn to cook in France, to drink beer as german people and in Finland I would learn to skiing. In brasil I would learn to dance capoeira and I would practise tango in Argentina. In Costa Rica I would learn to do skooba diving. Then I would learn to make tequila in Mexico and cocktails in Cuba. In USA I would learn to live as a gangster and shooting guns. I would go to Japan to learn fight sumo.

In France I would eat a lot of cheese, in Switzerland I would eat chocolate. In Argentina I would taste the best meal in the world. At last in Mexico I would eat their famous nachos with cheese and in Japan I would eat a lot of shushi that I like so much!
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Secrets
1. Can you keep a secret?
2. Have you ever revealed someone’s secret?
3. Who do you confide your secrets to?
4. Did you keep a secret diary when you were a child?
5. Do you know anyone who is very secretive?
6. What are the most common secrets?
7. Has anyone ever confessed something to you?
8. Do you think men or women are more secretive?
9. Do you think it is wrong for the media to reveal people’s secrets?
10. Is it good to have secrets?
PostSecret
I’m thrilled with the person I’m becoming.
I got a parking citation and so did the car next to me.

I replaced the ticket on the car next to me with mine.

My ticket got paid.

And the one I took?

I mailed it to PostSecret.
I was the one
that ate all
the fortune cookies

Last night

...I was looking for an answer
i give decaf to customers who are RUDE to me!
My mom thinks that I do the laundry to be helpful. The real reason I do it willingly is because I like collecting the money of my family members who have forgotten to empty their pockets before they put them in the dirty clothes bin.
Last night I scratched a lottery ticket and won $5000.00. My girlfriend was sitting next to me. I didn't tell her I won.

PostSecret
13345 Copper Ridge Rd
Germantown, Maryland
USA 20874-3454
I save receipts from sentimental meals in my wallet.
Dear college students:
I throw away the papers you turn in at the end of the semester without reading them because the grammar and unoriginality depresses me.
Using short films to get students to create their own narratives.
• The Adventures of a Cardboard Box
• The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore
• I Forgot My Phone
• Inseparable
• The Man Who Planted Trees
• The Black Button
• Post-it Love
Paperman
Students write an alternative ending.
Mixtape
One character writes a letter to another character.
We’ve All Been There
Students imagine that they are a character and decide what will happen to him or her in the next ten years. Each student writes a narrative in the first person, describing the next ten years of their character.
What goes around comes around.
The Reader
a bookshop
post-its
alphabet soup
a library
a comic
scrabble
Lost Property
Getting students to create their own short films.
Filmmaking is a positive and creative solution to integrating students’ digital life outside the classroom with what can happen inside the classroom and that through collaboration, they can actually create something greater.
‘We must teach communication comprehensively in all its forms … We live and work in a visually sophisticated world, so we must be sophisticated in using all the forms of communication, not just the written word.’

George Lucas
‘We need filmmaking in our classrooms, not to graduate filmmakers, but to graduate problem solvers, critical thinkers and passionate people who can work with others to make that which does not yet exist, real.’

Nikos Theodososakis
'The ability to capture diverse images, text and sounds and make educated decisions regarding the best way to combine them into a coherent and meaningful product makes digital filmmaking an appropriate tool for creative language learning.'

Seemita Mohanty
“Today everybody’s a film-maker.”

Wim Wenders
Pick up a camera. Shoot something. No matter how small, no matter how cheesy, no matter whether your friends and your sister star in it. Put your name on it as director. Now you're a director. Everything after that you're just negotiating your budget and your fee.

-James Cameron
We chose the image of birds flying because it makes us feel free, calm and relaxed. Also, it’s a natural moment that transmits us a sense of a different life.
This is a special moment in the film because it transmits the love for nature, the power of nature, and it shows us that we depend on nature.
The eye of the cat is a magnificent moment because the mystery and the harmony of this moment creates a strange feeling of inferiority on us, and we feel touched by the beauty of this “animal moment”.
For me, the piano keys represent all the afternoons spent in front of the piano thinking and doing sums to understand the *tempo*, the compass, etc. Sometimes, when I’m sad, I start playing the piano and everything disappears.
I like this moment because it reminds me of those days when it’s cold outside and I’m at home watching a film. It was also because of drops trickling down that when I was four years old I learnt how to count until ten!
“I think that stories and the telling of stories are the foundations of human communication and understanding. If children all over the country are watching films, asking questions and telling their stories, then the world will eventually be a better place.”

Beeban Kidron
‘Our task now is to keep encouraging our students to become effective communicators and active participants in their language learning. This is going to involve adopting new approaches to language, often integrating what students are already engaging with and learning outside of the classroom.’

Anna Whitcher
FUTURES SHORTS
Virgin Shorts

Championing undiscovered talent
WELCOME TO THE VIMEO

STAFF PICKS
CAREFULLY CURATED & HAND PICKED WITH ❤️ IN NEW YORK CITY

EST. 2008