Let the Camera Be Your Pen: The Camera-Pen Learning Approach Fosters Visual Thinking in the Classroom

# Details

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"Camera-pen" technique and pedagogical framework to approach video and film.

## Implications For Educators About

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## Implications For Stakeholders About

# Abstract

The pedagogical approaches to video and film are typically based on elements of storytelling, with ideas related to the development of the narrative and dramaturgy. Finnish film and video pedagogues have now elaborated a pedagogical framework that distances itself from the traditional approaches of fiction film. Their work has resulted in a technique they call “camera-pen”, a way to think about and represent the moving image that is now applied in classrooms at Finnish schools.

# Outcome

"Principles of the Camera-Pen Approach
\* The camera in the classroom is available for:
... exploring and structuring the world.
... organising language (ideas, concepts, phe- nomena).
... producing and sharing knowledge about the world.
... expressing and interacting.
... documenting and reflecting upon learning.
\* Learning through camera work
Shooting videos supports learning in various ways – camera work:
... concretises, visualizes and puts thoughts into action.
... gives observations structure and meaning.
... directs attention.
... supports meta-cognitive skills.
... develops and encourages interaction with others.
... strengthens ownership.
... produces emotions that contribute to learning.
\* A recipe for a good camera-pen exercise
1. The assignment is easy to understand but the problem is not too easy to solve.
2. The assignment evokes thoughts.
3. Everyone can succeed.
4. The exercise has a clear goal and target. 5. The exercise serves a purpose.
6. The timeframe is limited."
(Author, 45)