Making a Teach for Life Video

This guide will walk you through the process of making a Teach for Life video. Here you will find helpful tips and information on everything from choosing your subject to recording and submitting your video.

Planning and Preparing

1. Planning Your Video
2. Getting the YouTube App

Recording Your Video

1. Setting up
2. Recording Checklist
3. Submitting Your Video
Planning Your Video

The first step is to plan the content of your video—what you will do and say.

1. **Choose your subject**
   - The general theme is: “Here is one way I teach [lesson topic] to my students.”
   - In each video, focus on **one** specific activity or technique for teaching the topic.

2. **Things to consider**
   - Aim for **1 to 3 minutes** in length.
   - Use props and visual aids, if appropriate. Focus on **showing** rather than just telling.
   - Are there any helpful “tips” you’d like to include based on your experience?

3. **Follow this structure**
   - **Introduction**
     - Brief intro statement. *(Example: “Here’s how I teach my kindergarten students to add using objects.”)*
     - Introduce your materials, if any. When possible, suggest alternate materials that are easy to find.
   - **Main content**
     - Show and explain how you teach.
   - **Ending**
     - If appropriate, do a quick recap. *(Example: “To review: I introduce the listening chart at the beginning of the year, I post it in my classroom, and I go over it with my students every day.”)*
     - Brief closing statement. *(Example: “So that’s one way I teach counting to my students.”)*
Setting Up

When it’s time to record your video, here are some tips for getting set up.

1. Supplies
   - Smartphone (or digital camera)
   - Props (if any)
   - Table, stack of books, or tripod
   - Recording Checklist (next page)
   - Optional: external microphone

2. Setting
   - Choose your setting:
     - Any room at school or home. Smaller is better.
     - Quiet
     - Good lighting. (Avoid bright light behind you, like a window.)
   - If you have props, you might sit behind a desk or table.

3. Camera Setup
   - Make the camera steady
     - Use a table, a stack of books, or a tripod.
   - Place camera so that
     - It can see you and your props
     - It’s close enough to record your voice.
   - Widescreen format: Place your phone in horizontal position (lying on its side).
     - Optional: If you are using an external microphone, connect and test it.
Recording Checklist

It’s time for your close-up. Lights, camera, action!

☐ Get Phone Ready
1. Open the camera app.
2. Select the option to record a Video.
3. Position the phone horizontally (widescreen).

☐ Remember:
✓ Speak loudly, clearly, and at a comfortable pace.
✓ Your video does NOT have to be “perfect.” If you stumble, just keep going. As long as the main information is understandable, your video is good.

Recording

☐ Press record, pause and smile, then begin talking.

☐ Beginning:
✓ Make a brief intro statement
✓ Introduce your materials

☐ Ending:
✓ Quick recap, if appropriate
✓ Brief closing statement

☐ Pause and smile, then stop recording.

That’s it! You’re ready to submit your video.
Submitting Your Video

Now you’re ready to send your video to Teach for Life!

You can submit your video in one of two ways:

- If your video is **on your phone or computer**, you can upload it to the Teach for Life website.
- If you have a video **on YouTube**, you can import it to the website.

**To upload to the Teach for Life website:**

*Note: If uploading from your phone, connect to Wi-Fi to avoid high cellular data use.*

1. Go to teachforlife.org
2. Go to the “Create” page.
3. Click the “Upload” button.
4. On the “Upload a video” page, follow the instructions to upload your video.

**To import a video from YouTube:**

1. Go to teachforlife.org
2. Go to the “Create” page.
3. Click the “Import” button.
4. On the “Add a YouTube video” page, follow the instructions to import your video.

And you’re done! Your video will be added to the website automatically.