



Winning Suggestion

David Shircliff, *Modules Facilitator*
Stone Hill Middle School, Loudoun County, VA

Students *flip* for video assessments

Flip cameras an alternative means of evaluating students' knowledge



Students' Performance Assessments have been the same format for as long as I have been teaching with Modules (18 years). The assessments have also been the one area of the Module experience that my students seem to struggle with. Many times, students turn on the call light and when I arrive they are, how do I put it, "underprepared" to answer questions or do demonstrations. Many do not connect the assessment to the activity they are doing.

Recently, I attended a county department meeting where the guest speaker spoke about introducing more technology in the classroom. I asked myself, "How could I use more technology in technology education?" I started to look at what I thought was my students' weakest area, the Performance Assessments, and came up with the idea of having them use Flip video cameras to record and upload videos of themselves doing activities or answering questions presented as assessments.

The results have been fantastic! Not only do my students remember to do the assessments, but they also eagerly plan them out so as to make the best possible video. The teamwork has also improved as each student decides his or her role in the video. Some of my students tend to get a little nervous when I start asking Performance

Assessment questions. However, with the video cameras, they feel less pressure and tend to produce better work. It has also helped with the flow of the lab, as students do not have to wait for me to complete assessments; rather, they simply shoot a short video and turn it in. I use two cameras in my lab, and seldom are both out at the same time. If so, the wait time is usually shorter than waiting for me to be free.



I have a networked Synergy lab, so it is great that I can view the videos at any time. I try to view them during class, but we all know how that can go sometimes. Being able to view assessments later allows me to give feedback at any time. I can replay the video and go over concepts the students might not understand, or give them praise for excellent work.

So, if you are looking for a new way to do Performance Assessments, you might try the Flip camera. My students have certainly "flipped" over it! 

Teacher David Shircliff will receive a **\$50 Pitsco Education gift certificate** and a Teachers Rock! T-shirt for his winning suggestion on video assessments. Submit your ideas and activities to Editor Tom Farmer at tfarmer@pitsco.com, and you could be a winner too!

Students tend to plan and work harder when videotaping their Performance Assessments in David Shircliff's Module lab.

