THE FREE FLIPPED TEACHING & LEARNING RESOURCES EBOOK

FlippedClassroomWorkshop.com

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Introduction

As I write this, the Flipped Classroom has evolved into an undeniable grassroots movement, driven by the momentum of tens of thousands of teachers across the world who have embraced the idea. These passionate educators are making a meaningful difference in how students learn, and enhancing learning outcomes in the process.

While many politicians, parents, and even administrators and teachers lambast the state of education, there are plenty of inspired teachers of all disciplines, grade levels, backgrounds, and ideologies who have grasped onto a powerful notion, taken action, and made a meaningful change.

It took grit on the part of those teachers to change the way they teach, but this evolution has also been made possible because of the unprecedented capabilities of modern digital technology and the Internet and the World Wide Web. Upon this framework, an ever-expanding array of powerful software (including many great free tools) has been made available. And in the current decade, mobile technologies like Tablets and Smartphones have fundamentally altered the ease and convenience with which students and teachers can access digital content.

Take the Web, add in lots of good free software, and then throw in the “mobile revolution” that we are in the midst of, and it’s not terribly surprising to find that teachers have empowered themselves to put these amazing resources to use in highly effective ways.

I have assembled and published this collection of dozens of excellent free resources to help today’s educators continue their own lifelong learning journey ... exploring,
evolving, and striving to do the best they can for their students, and their own professional fulfillment.
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Organization of These Resources

In the flipped classroom workshops I’ve been running for several years now*, we focus on five essential elements that are consistently found in successful flipped teaching and learning:

**Quality Digital Learning Content** – How can you efficiently, affordably turn existing content into engaging digital content, or create new content when needed? And what about the growing volume of excellent learning content resources already available online? We explore both of these options.

**Successful Delivery & Engaged Consumption** – Once you’ve converted, created, or found excellent content, you have to make sure students can get to it. Then you have to make sure they are actually going to read, watch, and/or listen to it! There are many ways to help ensure the type of engagement you are hoping for. These resources will help with both of those challenges.

**Enhanced Use of Class Time** – This is one the biggest reasons WHY teachers flip their classrooms – to change how they use classroom time. These tools will help you get students active, hands-on, thinking, questioning, and collaborating. They’ll be so busy getting into what they’re doing and interacting they won’t even know their learning!

**Overcoming Obstacles** – Yes, there are obstacles to be dealt with. Technology challenges, frustrated administrators, and reluctant parents to name a few. Here are some resources that can help.

**Continuing YOUR Learning Journey as an Educator** – Digital learning doesn’t end with the flipped classroom, and neither does your professional development. How do you keep up with this ever-changing world? Here are the resources you need to keep up.

The free resources in this eBook are organized into chapters based on the above topics.
First however, for those who may just be getting started learning about flipped instruction, we provide a set of Quick Start Learning Resources to help you get a fundamental understanding of “the flip”.

*For more information about our workshops, click here.*
Quick Start Learning Resources

If you are already up to speed on the flip, then you’ll probably want to skip ahead, but if you are just starting to learn about flipped instruction and want to get a little further grounded, here are a few resources you may want to spend some time with.


This 3 minute video from flipped classroom ‘pioneer’ Aaron Sams is a good, very brief introduction to flipped teaching and learning.

7 Stories From Educators About Teaching In The Flipped Classroom

This is one of the first articles I wrote about flipped instruction, after I started to explore it several years ago.

Katie Gimbar’s Flipped Classroom FQ YouTube Video Playlist

Teacher Katie Gimbar has created this playlist of her many excellent videos discussing her experience with flipped teaching and learning. These quickly start to get rather in depth, but by exploring the titles you can probably find a clip or two that can help you start exploring questions you may have.
CHAPTER 1: Quality Digital Learning Content

There are quite a few ways to tackle this, and everyone tends to use a bit of a mixed approach.

First however, it is important to take a deep breath and realize you absolutely do NOT need to flip all of your course content, so relax and repeat after me ... “ease in”. It really is better to flip a little content – a couple lessons, for example, or a unit – and learn from the experience and evolve your efforts from there.

No matter how you choose to proceed, as you work to create, update, or find good content, you will need access to tools to help you do so.

Turning what you’ve already got into good flipped content

This is certainly one of the easiest ways to get started. There are a lot of ways to approach this, and they all depend largely on the format that your existing content is in (and most of these tools can also be used to help you create new content).

Here are some of the different ways you are likely to approach taking existing digital content and making it work as online content that students can consume at their own leisure, ‘rewinding’ and replaying as needed! Throughout this section we will examine good free tools that will let you ...

- Enhance and share PowerPoint slides
- Screencast - add voiceover to any existing digital content
- “Remix” content you have (and mix it up with some online content as well if you wish)

Finding good quality content

Another key resource in today’s blended and flipped learning environment is the constantly growing volume of expert content available for learning. We’ll look at numerous resources that can provide learning content on a wealth of academic subjects and topics with a couple of clicks. You can build entire lessons around this content, use
it to supplement your own, or make it available to advanced students who want to explore a topic further.

**A few unique options for creating content from scratch**

While most of the tools included in the next section can also be used to create new content, we’re also going to take a look at a few interesting free tools that lend themselves to creating new learning content in fresh, exciting ways.

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I. Turning what you’ve already got into good flipped content

**Enhance and Share PowerPoint Slides**

PowerPoint is still a mainstay for teachers across the world. So many instructors have a cadre of content they’ve developed with this powerful presentation product. It’s easy to kick these slide decks ‘up a notch’ and make them more powerful as student-consumed digital learning tools.

**Voice Over PowerPoint With Built in Functionality**

If you are already a user of PowerPoint, then there is additional built-in functionality available in the tool that makes it easy to add voiceover to your slides. By adding voice narration to slide, they become much more useful as ‘stand-alone’ instructional aids that students can consume at their own pace, replaying parts they wish to on demand.

- PowerPoint 2010 (*these techniques should work in 2013 PowerPoint as well*): This article, “*[How to Add Voice Over to PowerPoint 2010 Slides (Using Built-in Functionality)]*”, introduces you to how to use two different techniques to add voiceover narrations using built-in tools that are already available in the application.
• **PowerPoint 2007**: Check out “Add Voice Over to PowerPoint Presentations in 5 Easy Steps” to learn how to tackle this with the older version of the app (still widely used by many!).

*Slideshare*

[Slideshare.com](https://www.slideshare.net) is a very popular free online application that makes it a snap to load your PowerPoint slides and share them. After you upload slides, you can also embed the resulting Slideshare presentation in another web page. This can help you provide a private, non-distracting way to share your slides online (assuming you have access to a place to share them).

One note to be aware of: Slideshare does not support audio *(they used to, but they discontinued this in early 2014 due to limited use).*

*YouTube*

Share PowerPoint Slides through YouTube? Say what?

Seriously, with PowerPoint 2010, you can export files in WMV format; and PowerPoint 2013 lets you export as MP4. So both of these versions allow you to export slide decks with sound and then upload them to YouTube!
Of course, YouTube makes it easy to embed videos, so you also have the option of sharing your resulting slides-turned-into-video in a more private fashion.

**Screencasting**

A common approach to creating flipped content is Screencasting – capturing whatever you do on your screen while voicing over it. It’s a great way to supplement existing materials you have (assuming they are already in digital form). Just bring content up on the screen and narrate over it!

Screencasting may also incorporate web cam captures of the speaker, but that is a decision that each teacher should make, and is likely to vary with the content you are narrating over. As a rule of thumb, the younger students are, the more important it is to show your face so that students identify with and feel guided by you as their teacher.

One of the things I try to emphasize is that there are so many great tools available these days for creating digital learning content … teachers should not limit themselves to just screencasting (the section after this one offers a good apps that enable educators to "mash up" great content without having to screencast). That being said, screencasting is still a great technique and an excellent tool to have at your disposal, so here are a few great free apps to try out.

**Screencast-O-Matic**

One of the first screencasting tools published, Screencast-O-Matic works with both the Mac and the PC. Access Screencast-O-Matic here. There’s a quick demo video right there on the home page. You can record and host 15 minute clips for free, and unlimited clips with their Pro version which is only $12 a year.
**Screenr**

*Screenr* is another popular, free, web-based screencasting tool that works with the Mac and PC and offers additional functionality at a price. The makers of Screenr also make a suite of e-Learning tools, and host this [e-Learning community](#) with tutorials, forums, community blogs and more. With 100,000 e-learning professionals registered, this is a unique and interesting twist to Screenr and the related apps from the folks at Articulate who provide it.

**Jing**

The same folks who make Camtasia (*which is probably the most popular paid screencasting app used by ‘flippers’*) make Jing – a free application that lets you easily capture screen activity, record voice-over, and publish clips up to 5 minutes long. Jing works on the PC and the Mac and it’s pretty easy to get started with. Jing uses Screencast.com as an online video distribution methodology, and you can also download the SWF format files to distribute them your own way. The Pro version lets you create MP4 files, but is still limited to 5 minute clips.

[Here’s the Jing website](#), and this “How It’s Used” page gives a great overview of how educators and trainers are using it.
The following options can also work well for allowing you use your own content online in fun new ways!

II. Fun Tools for “Remixing” and “Mashing Up” Digital Content to Create Lesson Materials

There are constantly new tools popping up that will let you take digital content, mix it with other content (your own or existing online content) and deliver it in a way that has many benefits for teaching and learning.

Here are some of our favorite tools for “mashing up” content in ways that are useful for educators.

**Tackk**

An easy tool for creating digital assignments – homework, flipped class content, blended learning lesson material, etc. Tackk is an Internet based application that provides an easy to use interface enabling you to post an image, video, or other content and add some text so you can ask questions or post some other form of assignment. A comments section is automatically available for each piece of content, so there’s an instant discussion forum! How cool is that? Tackk content can also be made private.

View an example Tackk and learn more [here](#), or check out this [3 Minute Teaching With Technology Tutorial](#) that provides a quick overview of Tackk.
**LessonPaths**
This is a great free tool that is very popular with educators. LessonPaths (formerly MentorMob – renamed to LessonPaths at the end of 2013) makes it real easy to create a “Playlist” of web content. Just create an account, and start building your Learning Playlist by inserting files, web links, or text (and there’s a Quiz feature too!).

It didn’t take me more than 15 minutes to create my account and build this playlist of 15 Flipped Classroom Articles and Resources.

Get a quick introduction to LessonPaths in this 3 Minute Teaching With Technology Tutorial.

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**Blendspace**
Blendspace makes it incredibly easy to combine web pages, files, pictures, videos, and text into a slick, easy to consume online lesson resource, and it’s totally free! Teachers love Blendspace for hybrid, digital, blended, and flipped learning.

Check out this 3 Minute Teaching With Technology Tutorial, which introduces Blendspace.
Movenote

Movenote is a wonderful, easy to use app that makes it easy for teachers to create content for digital learning. You simply record yourself discussing a document or image that you post in Movenote. Here is their intro video. For some great examples of teachers using the tool and talking about their experiences, check out this article.

There is also a 3 Minute Teaching With Technology Tutorial for Movenote.

And don’t forget ... these kinds of tools can also enable students to create great content too!

III. Other Fun Tools for Creating Digital Learning Content

One of the most exciting and fun things about flipped teaching and learning is the ever-expanding array of wonderful tools that our available for creating your own digital learning materials. The possibilities quickly expand beyond converting existing and web materials into different presentation delivery formats. If you’re willing to devote a little extra time to it, wonderful new worlds of creativity are at your disposal!

Making Movies

Plenty of adventurous educators have used video creation tools like these to make educational videos.
**Windows Movie Maker**

I made my first silly little music videos with the built version of Movie Maker that used to be included with older versions of Windows. These days, Microsoft makes Movie Maker available as a free download here: [http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/movie-maker](http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/movie-maker).

**iMovie**

iMovie is free for Mac users (a version is also available for purchase for the iPad for $4.99). Learn about some creative ways students have been using iMovie (and iBooks – more on that below) in this article: “[Student Created Content is an Exciting and Inspiring Learning Tool that Teaches Many Skills](#)”.

**Creating Books**

Another possibility for learning content that just keeps improving is books. Creating your own book has never been easier and with the types of rich, interactive content you can create, it has never been more exciting!

**iBooks**

![Screen shot of iBooks](image)

*iBooks Author* is a powerful free platform for creating Digital books. Sadly, iBooks is only available on the Mac. [This wonderful video](#) shares the story of some students creating their own iBooks. Clearly, creating great quality digital publications with iBooks is fun and provides an incredible sense of accomplishment. I have no doubt that one of the many powerful uses and benefits of the integration of technology into teaching and learning is having students create their own content and get inspired while learning and
inspiring others. This is the kind of thing that helps me believe that the future of education has never been brighter!

**Booksmart**
This is a tool that works on PCs and Macs. The [Booksmart software](#) is free, but publishing books you make with Booksmart may entail some small fees depending on how you wish to publish them.

**Publishing Options for the iPad**
There are lots of good book creation tools for the iPad, many of which come with a small fee. One free one that gets lots of good write-ups is [Book Creator](#). Find it in the iTunes store [here](#). Learn why Apple Distinguished Educator Cormac Cahill recommends this app in his article, “[Why I use Book Creator in the Classroom](#)”.

**Cartooning and Comics**
If your are ready to really get creative – here’s a whole bunch of great free apps for taking the comic and cartooning approach! You find 20 different options in this article: [20 Free Tools for Making Comics and Cartoons for Teaching and Learning](#).

This is not an instructional use of the tool, but just to show you some of the creative possibilities, check out [this music video](#) I made using Pixton ([www.pixton.com](http://www.pixton.com)), along with Camtasia, and Creative Commons licensed images.
Other Digital Storytelling Tools

In addition to Comics and Cartooning, there are plenty of other ways to use digital storytelling tools to create instructional content. Read “The Power of Digital Storytelling, With Kathy Schrock (plus a Zillion Resources!)”, for some great examples and access to plenty of good free resources. Here are a few recommended free tools from this page:

- **Storify** – “Simple, Social Storytelling”
- **Videolicious (app)** – “Instantly weave together interviews, videos, photos, music and more into a sophisticated video production—in seconds”
- **Powtoon** – Powtoon is such a powerful tool and it’s free! Check out this article to learn more about getting started with Powtoon.

IV. Finding Great Courses and Content

You don’t have to create all of your digital learning materials. There are so many good sources of free courses and expert lectures available and the quality and quantity of materials just keeps expanding. Whether you choose to use some of these ‘as is’ or incorporate them into a digital mash-up using one of the many great tools we just looked at, these resources are good to know about.

**Free Courses**

*The Khan Academy*

With the backing of the Gates Foundation, Sal Khan’s organization has become widely recognized as a source of good free tutorials in dozens and dozens of subjects, over a wide range of grade levels. The Khan Academy YouTube Channel provides thousands of videos covering a vast array of academic subjects, across many grade levels. Just click the search icon (under where it says “Khan Academy”, to the right of the grey text menu items ‘Videos’, ‘Discussion’, and ‘About’) to search the channel for content of your
choosing.

TED
The hundreds of inspiring talks from the “Technology, Education, and Design” non-profit organization are of an intellectual level best suited for older student (High School or higher education students). I’ve found my 14 year old son perusing TED just to check out some of the fascinating science lectures! TED excels at “edutainment”, and in this case, that’s a good thing.

The OpenCourseWare Consortium

According to Makeuseof.com, “Simply put, the OpenCourseWare Consortium is the best place to begin looking for free online video lectures”. With over 40,000 courses from 70+ providers, there is undoubtedly a wealth of content here. The OpenCourseWare
Consortium brings together access to all of these courses, but as a curated source, it does not provide consistency – that is, you can find many courses here, but they will be delivered via different sites and mediums.

**WatchKnowLearn**

*WatchKnowLearn* offers tens of thousands of educational videos for younger students in grades K through 12 (much of their content is geared towards elementary and middle schools grades). These videos are well organized and grouped into Academic Subject areas and other special categories, making them easily accessible. There’s a Common Core grouping as well. There is also a search tool that includes an easy ‘slide bar’ to set the age range that you are looking for content for.

![WatchKnowLearn.org](image)

**YouTube’s Education Channel**

We certainly can’t overlook the ‘big kahuna’ of video – YouTube. They do have an education channel dedicated to videos specifically for education, grouped into a number of easy to use categories (‘Primary & Secondary Ed’, ‘University’, ‘Lifelong Learning’ and some high level academic subject groupings).

![YouTube](image)

**Academic Earth**

*Academic Earth* provides hundreds of free video lectures from professors at leading universities such as Yale, Stanford, Harvard, and more. This is a sort of predecessor to
the evolving MOOC phenomenon.

![ACADEMIC EARTH](image)

**Free Content**

There are two key resources I like to recommend when it comes to finding free content, both of which are specifically designed to be free and to enable legitimate sharing (that doesn’t violate copyright laws).

*Creative Commons*

The Creative Commons content licensing and sharing scheme provides a great approach to enabling creators of content to make it known when they are willing to let other use content that have created. This page and video from CreativeCommons.org discusses how CC licensing works, and this article discusses techniques for finding Creative Commons licensed content.

*Open Educational Resources*

The ever-expanding abundance of Open Educational Resources is a wonderful thing! There are a number of great organizations that have wonderful web sites in support of OER. Two of these are the OER Commons and the OER Consortium. This article, Learning about OER – Open Educational Resources, explains these resources in more detail.
CHAPTER 2: Successful Delivery & Engaged Content Consumption

Okay, so now we’ve got a bunch of great applications and resources that enable you to provide your students with excellent learning content in digital format. Now you need to make sure they can get to it.

While you’re at it, you’ll want to take advantage of the various approaches that digital learning lends itself to when it comes to increasing the likelihood that students will engage with the content.

One of the first big questions that teachers always pose during flipped classroom training is, “How can I get students to do the homework?” If students don’t consume the content assigned them as their flipped homework, they won’t come into class ready to use class time in the exciting new ways made possible with the flip.

Techniques to Help Ensure Engagement

Fortunately, there are many techniques you can leverage in the world of digital learning that will help to ensure that students engage with your awesome learning materials, including:

- **Discussion Forums.** Commonly used for reflective posts or to answer questions you’ve posed – discussion forums provide an excellent mechanism for requiring students to provide feedback as, or immediately after, they engage with learning content.

- **The ‘WSQ’ Technique:** ‘WSQ’ (*pronounced “whisk”*) stands for Watch, Summarize, Question. This technique, coined by Crystal Kirch, has caught on pretty big in the Flipped Class world. Click over to [this article](#) to get a good overview of this powerful yet simple approach to getting students to consume and engage with flipped learning content.

- **The K-W-L Technique:** Another solid technique for getting students to engage with content. Check out, “[Using the K-W-L Method to Help Ensure Content Engagement in the Flipped Classroom](#)” to explore the K-W-L technique further.
• **Build Engagement In and Around Videos or other content:** There are lots of good tools out there that make this possible. In the following section we’ll see some free tools that let you embed questions and quizzes in videos, build other content around videos and deliver them in isolated learning environments.

• **More Ideas:** Discover a handful of additional approaches in the article, “5 Techniques To Encourage Students to Consume Flipped or Blended Learning Content”.

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**Tools**

In the following pages we consider various types tools and how they can be used to position students to consume, interact, and otherwise engage with flipped learning content.

**Learning Management Systems**

If you teach in a college or university, chances are that your school has one or more Learning Management Systems (also sometimes referred to as “Course Management Systems”). Blackboard, Moodle, and Desire2Learn are a few of the popular offerings in wide use. These applications are all generally very good for sharing links, documents, and even allow for embedding of content from time to time. Additional functionality like Discussion Forums, Assignments, and Quizzes make these systems great flipped content delivery vehicles.

Within the LMS environment, all of the above mentioned techniques can be leveraged. You got discussion forums to use. Additionally, many LMS’s will allow the embedding of content, which opens the door to using a lot of other tools (like those discussed in the
coming pages) and embedding the results in your courses for students to use. At a minimum, you can link out to interactive engaging content.

Edmodo
In the K-12 world, the LMS is still pretty rare. Edmodo is powerful, much loved LMS/CMS style application widely used in K-12. The rich functionality offered by this education-specific course deliver tool is very impressive for a free (and ad-free) application.

Click over to this article, “10 Reasons Why Edmodo is an Excellent (and Hugely Popular) Digital Learning Platform” to dive into the many reasons why you will want to know about Edmodo if you don’t already have a digital learning platform. This video provides an overview of the article’s content.
Engaging, Interactive Video Options

One of my favorite approaches to delivering video content is to use one of the many great tools that are available to help teachers build interaction around videos. Adding questions, providing additional content, including a discussion forum ... these are all functions that are possible with some of these great free applications.

*Ed.Ted.Com*

‘Flip’ a video to create your own customized lesson!

With ed.ted.com, you can turn any video into a customized lesson. Add your own context, and select from pre-configured quizzes or add your own questions and follow-up suggestions. You can share the custom lessons with students through e-mail, Facebook, or Twitter – they will have their own unique page on TED Ed, and you decide who gets to see it. You can see who viewed the lesson, review how many questions they attempted and the answers they provided, see the number of questions they got right and more. You can ‘flip’ ANY YouTube video (including one you create)! Learn more about this innovative tool in this introductory video.

*Teachem*
Teachem is a free online web site where you can easily turn YouTube videos into online classes that can be private or public. A variety of additional teaching and learning aids, such as Flash Cards and ‘SmartNotes’ round out the functionality to deliver a uniquely powerful tool for delivering flipped course content. Originally modeled off of their sister website focused on legal education, Lawline.com, the parent company started Teachem to provide this great, free functionality to teachers of all subjects.

Learn more here.

EduCanon
EduCanon makes it a snap to embed questions in YouTube videos – have your questions appear at any points you choose. I created a “3 Minute Teaching With Tech Tutorial” showing how easy it is to get up and running with EduCanon.

EdPuzzle
EdPuzzle is similar to EduCanon, and I’ve had teachers who participate in flipped classroom workshops tell me that they thought it was easier to use than EduCanon, so it’s another tool that is worth being aware of.

Creating Your Own Web Sites
It’s never been easier to create your own high quality web site for free! Teachers have been using Wikis and other alternatives to do this for years. When you create your own site, you get a much higher degree of control over what students will see. Many of these tools let you get pretty fancy, so you can start simple and gradually add more sophisticated functionality if you wish to.

A Wiki
Many teachers, especially in K-12, like to use Wikis to create a centralized resource where they can organize and deliver learning content (and conduct other teaching functions). Wikispaces is a very popular Wiki used in education. Wikis make it easy to
add images, links, videos, and more to a web page. They are really pretty easy to use – don’t be intimidated by the idea of creating your own web page, it will likely be much easier than you imagine. When you are working with a Wiki, you don’t need to know HTML to create a page (although it can sometimes help).

**Versal**
Create rich web-based courses with ease, for free, using Versal!

Have you ever needed or wanted to create an online course but did not know where to start? Versal provides a free service that allows you to completely design and create an online course without ever having to worry about trying to code. Many people are still hesitant, however, because they fear that using the program will prove to be just as difficult as coding and as a result have a hard time figuring out how to use it. This could not be further from the truth. Versal is easy to use and easy to navigate, and they take all of the guess-work out of creating a course – all you have to do is have the knowledge that needs to go into the course and how to set-up a lesson plan.

**Google Sites**
Another great free way to host content is on a Google Site. This is rather like a Wiki in many ways. You only need a Google Account to create a Google Site. Once you have one, [click here](#) to learn how to get started (note: you’ll need to create a Gmail account if you don’t already have one).
Other Approaches to Delivering Content

**Google Drive**
Educators love [Google Drive](https://drive.google.com) (formerly known as Google Docs), with its ability to allow for easy sharing of docs, and its unique capacity to allow multiple users to collaboratively edit documents, worksheets, and presentations! All you need to use Google Drive is a free Google account (you already have one if you use Gmail). If your school is a Google Apps for Education user, your teachers and students are likely to have easy access to a set of free applications including Google drive, through their existing email address (check with your tech folks on that).

**Facebook**
Yes, Facebook. If your students are over 13 and you are comfortable with the idea, Facebook’s Group feature can be very helpful as a way to organize and deliver content.
A Facebook Group can provide a private site on Facebook that you invite members to, where you can share links, photos, videos, and create question sets. All of these elements have an instant discussion group available via the Comments feature. Students do not have to ‘Like’ you, nor do you have to friend/like them in order for this to work. 

This video from Jay Dold explains how to set up a Facebook Group.
CHAPTER 3: Enhanced Use of Class Time

Okay, so you’ve created great flipped content and delivered it in such a way that students are going to be reading, listening, and/or watching it at their leisure, rewinding and reviewing as needed, and engaging and interacting. They should be well positioned to come to class ready to bolster any difficult areas and dig deeper into topics with active learning activities!

So, what kinds of free software applications exist out there to help you find those ‘trouble spots’ that most need further review, and provides hands-on exploration of the learning topics to further reinforce learning? I’m a big believer in Active Learning, which comes in many flavors and encompasses many labels. One huge advantage of the flipped classroom is that it totally facilitates active learning in all of its forms (I wrote this article about this).

So let’s get active!

Active Learning

There are many good free tools that can play a role in active learning. Gather student responses, facilitate interactive collaboration, explore and reinforce lesson content, and learn new techniques as you do it!

Student Response Systems

Socrative

I’m a big fan of this easy to use application that does not require students to create an account in order to be able to use it. It works from computers, tablets, and smartphones, and it’s easy for teacher and student alike to use. No wonder it’s so popular.

Check out this 3 Minute Teaching with Technology Tutorial video for a quick introduction to Socrative.
**Plickers**

A Plicker is an image similar to a QR code on a piece of paper that can be scanned by a tablet or smartphone. This is a wonderfully low cost yet sort of high-tech idea wrapped into one concept! Your students don’t need any digital technology in hand to use them (just the teacher does, and smartphones and tablets can work fine).

Learn all about Plickers here: “6 Easy Steps for Getting Started Using Free Plickers for Assessment”.

**Online Interactive White Boards**

One of the most popular post topics on EmergingEdTech for 6 years running has been the online interactive white board. There are a lot of great free applications that will let you and your students collaboratively edit an online white board together. Here’s a few of my favorites:

- **Twiddla**: Inviting others to collaborate on Twiddla was quick and easy – just hit the green GO button to start a session and use the Invite option. This app provides a great set of tools. You can easily add an image, web page, or document as a background to markup. There is a color palette tool, pen width tool, a shapes tool, and text can be inserted. There is even a “browse” option so that links in your background image can be clicked on, which was pretty unique. Not only is there a chat option built in, but there’s even free audio conferencing capability!

- **Scribblar**: Scribblar is a nice tool for collaborating. You can easily invite others to participate, and there are plenty of useful tools for drawing and editing. You can also chat or use voice to communicate with each other.

For more on these applications, try this article: “6 Free Online Collaborative Interactive White Boards – 2012 Update”.
Mind Mapping & Brainstorming Tools

Collaborative mind mapping and brainstorming tools can be excellent interactive applications for the classroom, with potential uses that fit well into a wide variety of lesson plans. This article introduces Mindmeister.com and Bubbl.us. This post by Jane Hart, includes a baker’s dozen of these types of tools, many of which are free (and labelled accordingly).

Discussion Forums and Back Channels

We’ve already seen a few tools that lend themselves to online discussions, including Tackk, and ed.ted.com, and most LMSs. Online discussions can be a role in active learning. This PDF from the University of Oregon is an excellent resource for learning more about Generating and Facilitating Engaging and Effective Online Discussions. Many of the ideas can apply just as well to use in the classroom as they can outside of it.

One of the concepts in which discussion tools can also be employed during class time is the “backchannel”. Wikipedia defines the backchannel as, “the practice of using networked computers to maintain a real-time online conversation alongside the primary group activity or live spoken remarks”

Twitter

Twitter can be a powerful backchannel tool, as well as providing opportunities for research.

Project Based Learning

While PBL is admittedly a form of Active Learning, it is such a widely recognized concept that I felt it deserved its own separate little section. Additionally, the tools above are more readily adapted to short duration activities, whereas PBL often involves larger and longer efforts, i.e. Projects.
Here’s an introductory resource from Edutopia for a first foray into the world of Project Based Learning.

To explore many tools (many of which are free) that are useful for PBL, check out the Project Based Learning article category on EmergingEdTech.
CHAPTER 4: Overcoming Obstacles

Succeeding with flipped instruction, much like trying other new approaches in the classroom, may very well require you to overcome some obstacles. Here are some of the common ones, and resources to help you be prepared to for them!

Making Sure Students can Access the Content

So here’s obstacle number 1. If students have challenges accessing the flipped content, they certainly won’t be prepared for the evolved approach you hope to use in the classroom. There’s plenty you can do help address this.

Quite a few of the most inspiring flipped classroom stories I’ve heard have come from teachers working in particularly socio-economically challenged districts. They figured how to work around access issues, and so can you.

This article offers plenty of insights and ideas to set you and your students up for success: How to Make Sure Your Students Have Access to Flipped Learning Content.

Letting the Right People Know What You’re Up To

Another obstacle you want to be sure to consider is the objections you are likely receive from stakeholders like parents, administrators, and other teachers and educational staff you work with.

Letters for Parents

One of the best ways to be prepared for possible parent objections is to be proactive. Numerous teachers have made letters they use available to others:

- Here’s a letter from respected ‘flipper’ Crystal Kirch: http://flippingwithkirch.blogspot.com/2012/01/what-does-my-flipped-classroom-look.html
• Here’s a letter from flipped teacher turned administrator Todd Nelsoney: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uqiDznW6T24f320Q7P4mnptManh_Loj0tcsSfUll18/edit
• Here’s Todd’s letter in Spanish: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z3tQOs0UD9OEwk5tIEaYUSAAUIUQwx8d5h9nlnm-dg/edit

Administrators and other Educators

You want to be sure to let your Administrators know what you are doing as well. This is particularly important since all too often, frustrated parents may go directly to school administrators with concerns and complaints, rather than going to you, the teacher. The last thing you need is to have an Admin aggravated with you because they were put on the spot when they did not know what a disgruntled parent was talking about when they complained about your unfamiliar teaching approach.

Any good video or article introducing the flip is good to help you inform administrators about the how’s and why’s of implementing flipped instruction. Here’s one I like from Sams and Bergmann: 4 learning strategies that make the most of flipped learning. This can also be helpful when wishing to share insights into flipped learning with other educators.
CHAPTER 5: Learning More

Your exploration of fun free resources for learning about the flipped classroom and reverse instruction tools and techniques doesn’t have to end here! Following are plenty of great sites where you continue your flipped teaching journey and stay on top of news and developments about ‘the flip’.

**FlippedClassroomWorkshop.com**

If you’re reading this free eBook, you probably already know about the Web’s favorite new source of flipped instruction resources, professional development, flipped class news, and more! If you don’t, then be sure to click over to FlippedClassroomWorkshop.com and check it out!

**EmergingEdTech’s Flipped Classroom Articles Category**

We’re frequently publishing new articles about flipped teaching and learning and related ideas like blended learning, project based learning, and much more. Sign up for blog posts from EmergingEdTech to have this content sent to your In Box. Check out http://www.emergingedtech.com/category/flipping-the-classroom-flipped-teaching/ to view dozens of related articles that have been published over the last few years (and new articles as they are published).
The Flipped Classroom Workshop-in-a-Book & Online Workshops Facebook Page

If you are a Facebook user, this is a great way to learn more and stay in touch with flipped teaching and learning news, resources, etc. Just click out to https://www.facebook.com/FlippedClassWorkshopBook and Like the Page to have our posts stream to you in Facebook.

FlippedLearning.org

This is a popular and widely accepted site focused on flipped learning. There is a wealth of resources available here. Stop by and have a look: http://www.flippedlearning.org.
And when you’re ready to take your Flipped Teaching and Learning Professional Development to the next level, consider ...

**The Flipped Classroom Workshop-in-a-Book**

[Click here to learn more](#)

Several times a year, EmergingEdTech founder and author Kelly Walsh offers an immersive online workshop for educators. Over the course of this 4 week workshop, you will develop your own plan for bringing flipped teaching techniques into your classroom, at your pace. This workshop is highly affordable and offers a tremendous value when compared to other professional development offerings.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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