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MYSIMPLESHOW IS A FAST AND EASY VIDEO CREATION TOOL

As my working schedule is usually heavy, I always look out for new web applications to help me make my classes more interesting and engaging.

Basically, there are two requirements on my part when choosing an application:

1. a web application should be free
2. the learning curve should not be too steep.

There are so many great programs out there on the web, and I have been using them along with my students in the classroom.

http://www.eslvideo.com/eslvideo_quiz_lowint.php?id=8952

https://prezi.com/n0pmsmlipp_d/kristal-water/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy#

<https://padlet.com/vecttra/1s2weajuusb8>

But the program that has been my #1 choice lately is MySimpleShow [1].

The thing is MySimpleShow uses a different approach to meeting your personal, educational or professional animated explainer video. You are just given a slide where you arrange your images to match your scripts.

Using MySimpleShow, you have two options to choose from:

- a) a script template, or you can upload a PowerPoint presentation
- b) a blank page (you write your own script)

What I like most is that each step is accompanied by helpful tutorial videos, which you can and should watch while creating a video.

When you first start with your Draft step, you will be asked to pick a category that your video falls under and then you will be walked through some simple questions about the topic and content of the video you want to create.

As soon as the script is done, you can move to inserting images and pictures in your presentation. MySimpleShow will choose key words in your script, and you will be able to see the images that correspond with your key words on the right hand.

Although you can use pre-selected images, the best way to create a good presentation is by uploading your own images.

Mind you, you will have to arrange your images, adjust sizes and change images to suit your idea. MySimpleShow will attempt to pull in images related to what you have written about as well, which can speed up your creation process. Also, if you decide you need more slides, you can use the scissors icon to split a clip into multiple clips.

Adding your audio is the final step. Again, you can either use a computer generated voice with several options, my preferred method, or you can record your own audio (which is a great feature for having students record themselves giving a presentation).

Some educators have pointed out that computer generated voices sound do not sound natural, but I like them. They are American English, which is easier to understand than British English.

My first ever presentation created with MySimpleShow is based on Unit 11 'Life's what you make it' from the workbook 'New Headway Pre-Intermediate', and tells my students about the Rolling Stones.

<https://youtu.be/S9-ZFkDiBaU>

What I wanted to do was to show my students that any text from a coursebook can be transformed into a mini story.

To create this presentation, I had to search for some images online, as the suggested ones didn't match the script the way I saw it.

Quite often my students are not keen on creating digital presentations as it takes a lot of time, but this time they were quick on the uptake. Here are some of their sample presentation:

https://youtu.be/PEKVxy4_hZg

<https://youtu.be/pizbqVujqCM>

I also use the program to create 'hall of shame' videos with the view of reminding some students of the promises they have broken or classes they have missed and have no intention of making up for.

But in this case I always make a point of getting permission from my students to use their photos and names.

<https://youtu.be/W0-kW6tcOwo>

The teachers can use the program for a wide range of activities – creating a video online has never been so easy with MySimpleShow [2].

Another big plus of the program is that when your video is processed, you can upload it on YouTube, or Vimeo, or download it on your computer, and use it whenever you need it.

References:

1. <https://www.consumersadvocate.org/presentation-software/c/mysimpleshow-review>
2. <http://www.edtechroundup.org/home/reviews-mysimpleshow-create-animated-presentations-in-minutes>