Using AI to Create Engaging Video Lessons

A Practical Guide for Teachers

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Teaching with AI

Practical Strategies to Integrate AI in The Classroom

In Teaching with AI, I speak directly to you as a teacher working through real classroom questions about AI. The book helps you build strong AI literacy so you understand how these systems work, where they help, and where caution is needed. I share concrete classroom strategies, examples drawn from practice, and ways to align AI use with sound pedagogy and professional judgment. My goal is to support you in using AI thoughtfully as part of your teaching, in ways that deepen learning and keep human expertise at the center.

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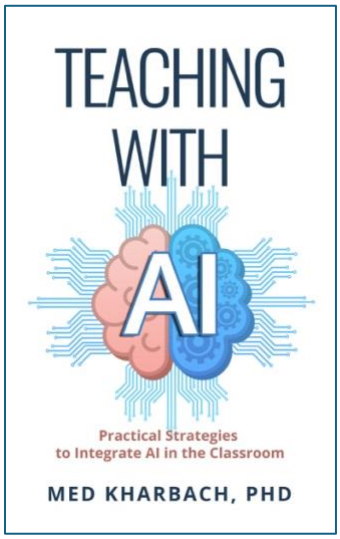

Introduction

Video has become one of the most effective ways to teach complex ideas, and AI tools have made it dramatically easier to create. You don't need a camera, a studio, or editing software anymore. You write a script or describe what you want, and the AI handles the rest: visuals, voiceover, subtitles, transitions, music. A lesson that used to take hours to film and edit can now be ready in minutes.

The tools available today fall into a few categories. Some convert text directly into complete videos. Others use AI avatars, digital presenters who read your script with natural lip-syncing and facial expressions. There are animated explainer makers that turn abstract concepts into visual walkthroughs, and interactive platforms that let you embed questions directly into the video. Each type serves a different purpose, and knowing which one fits your goal makes all the difference.

Let me share this caveat first. These tools are impressive, but they have real limits. Most work best for short videos (1-3 minutes). They can produce factual errors, awkward visuals, and a tone that doesn't match your classroom. Every video needs your review before it reaches students. Think of AI video tools the same way you'd think of any drafting assistant: they give you a strong starting point, and you make it yours.

In this guide, I'll cover what you can do with these tools, walk through the ones teachers actually use and recommend, and share practical tips to help you get started.

Please note that I am not affiliated with any tool, framework, or platform mentioned here and its inclusion in this guide does not necessarily mean endorsement!

What You Can Do with AI Video Tools

The range of possibilities has expanded quickly. Here's what teachers are doing right now.

Turn lesson scripts into complete videos

You write or paste a script, pick a visual style, and the AI generates a video with voiceover, subtitles, background music, and relevant visuals. No filming required.

Have an AI avatar deliver your lesson

Pick a digital presenter, type your script, and the avatar reads it with realistic facial expressions and lip-syncing. This works well when you don't want to record yourself or when you need content in multiple languages.

Build animated explainers for tricky concepts

Science processes, math procedures, historical timelines, abstract theories. AI animation tools turn these into step-by-step visual walkthroughs with diagrams and motion graphics that make ideas easier to follow.

Create multilingual versions of the same lesson

Many tools support 80-200+ languages. Record one lesson and generate it in Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, or whatever your students need. No re-recording, no translation delays.

Convert materials you already have into video

Upload a PowerPoint, a PDF, a blog post, or class notes, and the AI transforms them into a video lesson. A fast way to give new life to existing content.

Add interactive elements to video lessons

Some platforms let you embed quiz questions, polls, or discussion prompts at specific points in the video. Students answer as they watch, which turns passive viewing into active learning.

Support flipped classroom models

Create AI-generated lesson videos for students to watch at home and use class time for discussions, group work, and hands-on practice.

Produce quick video warm-ups and recaps

Short 30-60 second clips that introduce a topic or summarize key ideas work well as lesson starters or exit activities.

Enable student-created video projects. Students can use the same tools to create research presentations, book reports, or topic explainers as an alternative to written assignments.

AI Video Tools Worth Trying

There's a growing list of tools in this space, but they're not all built for the same purpose. Here's a breakdown of the ones teachers talk about and recommend, organized by what they do best.

Text-to-Video Platforms

1 InVideo AI

InVideo AI is one of the most recommended tools across teacher forums. You type a topic or paste a script, and it builds a complete video with clips, subtitles, music, and

AI voiceover in 50+ languages. The template library is massive (5,000+), and the learning curve is short.

2 Pictory

Pictory is strong for converting written content into video. Paste an article, a blog post, or lesson notes, and it pulls from 3 million+ stock clips to create a polished video. It adds subtitles automatically, which is a nice touch for accessibility.

3 Fliki

Fliki offers nearly 2,000 AI voices in 80 languages, making it one of the most versatile options for multilingual classrooms. The script-based editor is intuitive, and teachers who prefer working with text find it comfortable.

Avatar-Based Creators

4 Synthesia

Synthesia is the most discussed avatar tool in education. You pick from 230+ avatars, type your script, and it generates a video with natural lip-syncing in 140+ languages. It can also convert PowerPoint slides directly into avatar-narrated scenes and integrates with learning management systems.

5 HeyGen

HeyGen offers 700+ avatars with realistic expressions. Teachers use it for history lessons, language instruction, and any content where a "presenter" helps hold attention. It supports collaborative editing, so multiple teachers can work on the same project.

6 D-ID

D-ID takes a simpler approach: upload a photo and it creates a talking version with lip-syncing. Quick and effective for short clips.

Animated Explainer Makers

7 Animaker

Animaker creates cartoon-style animated lessons with 1,800+ AI voices in 200+ languages. Particularly popular with elementary teachers who want visually playful content.

8 Steve.AI

Steve.AI has 1,000+ templates designed for educational content. Best for short, story-driven explainers in the 60-90 second range.

9 Luma AI

Luma AI converts text or images into animated tutorial-style videos. Good for science, coding, and procedural content.

Education-Specific Platforms

10 Google Vids

Google Vids is Google's entry into AI video for education. Uses Gemini AI for scripts and voiceovers, integrates with Google Classroom, and creates videos up to 10 minutes. Free for schools with qualifying Google Workspace licenses through at least May 2026.

11 Mootion

Mootion is fast. It generates a 3-minute video in under 2 minutes. Customizable templates, built-in diagram and quiz support, and a library of teacher avatars.

12 FlexClip

FlexClip is a free AI education video maker. Good for lesson explainers, teaching presentations, and learning animations when budget is a concern.

Editing and Enhancement Tools

13 CapCut

CapCut is Reddit's top pick for free video editing. No watermarks, high-quality exports. Teachers use it to polish AI-generated clips or create quick visual explainers from scratch.

14 EdPuzzle

EdPuzzle isn't a video creator, but it's the go-to tool for adding interactive questions to any video. Teachers embed comprehension checks at key moments, turning AI-generated videos into formative assessments.

15 Canva

Canva is free for K-12 educators and now includes AI video generation alongside its design tools. A solid all-in-one option.

Tips for Getting Started

Here are practical tips drawn from teacher experience and online discussions to help you get the most from these tools.

1. Write your script first. AI video tools produce better results when you give them organized, clear text. Draft your lesson script before opening any tool. The quality of your input directly shapes the quality of the output.

2. Keep videos short. Aim for 1-3 minutes per video. Most AI tools lose coherence in longer clips (characters change appearance, scenes repeat, lighting shifts). Break a 15-minute lesson into five short videos and you'll get better results than one long attempt.

3. Always watch before sharing. AI-generated video can include factual errors, odd visuals, or a tone that doesn't suit your students. Review every video before it goes to your classroom.

4. Use avatars for the right purpose. Avatar-presented lessons work well for delivering instructions, explaining procedures, or walking through content step by step. They're less effective for emotional or personal topics where your own presence and voice carry more weight.

5. Convert what you already have. Don't create everything from scratch. Upload your existing PowerPoints, lesson notes, or PDFs into AI video tools and let the AI convert them. You'll save significant time.

6. Combine tools for a complete workflow. Use ChatGPT to write the script, InVideo or Synthesia to generate the video, and EdPuzzle to add interactive questions. Two or three tools together cover the entire process.

7. Check your school's AI policy. Some districts have specific guidelines about approved tools and data privacy. Verify before you start creating, especially for tools that process any student-related content.

8. Try the free options first. CapCut, FlexClip, Google Vids, and Canva all have free tiers. Test them before paying for a subscription.

9. Don't overdo it. AI video is a supplement to your teaching, not a replacement. Students still prefer and benefit from real teacher interaction. Use video for specific purposes like flipped lessons, visual explainers, and multilingual support, and keep yourself at the center of the classroom experience.

Conclusion

AI video tools have made it possible for any teacher to create polished, engaging video lessons without a production team or editing skills. The tools are accessible, most have free options, and the time savings are real.

Start with one tool and one simple goal. Maybe it's a 2-minute explainer for a topic your students always struggle with, or a flipped classroom video they watch before tomorrow's discussion. See how it fits into your workflow, review what the AI gives you, and adjust from there. You'll find the tools that work for you quickly, and the video content you create can support your teaching in ways that written materials alone can't.

About the Author

Med Kharbach, PhD, is an educator, researcher, and the editor of Educators Technology (educatorstechnology.com). A former K-12 teacher with over a decade of classroom experience, Med currently serves as part-time faculty at Mount Saint Vincent University. He is the author of Teaching with AI: Practical Strategies to Integrate AI in The Classroom, and co-author of The AI Turn in Academic Research with Dr. Jonathan Woodworth. His work focuses on the intersection of technology, pedagogy, and practical classroom applications. You can read more about Med and his research on his professional website www.medkharbach.com.

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