

Today's Learners Thrive with ELMO in the Classroom

By Leigh Carter
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I'm fairly certain that most educators and administrators realize the necessity of having audiovisual (AV) equipment in the classroom as well as in staff and board meetings. When creatively integrated with virtually any curriculum, AV sparks kids' interest in learning.

With all the pictures, graphics and electronic images our society is inundated with these days, we've all become visual learners, at least to some degree. Modern day classrooms are not complete without a document camera, or as ELMO likes to call them, a visual presenter. ELMO is probably the most recognizable name among visual presenter manufacturers.

As most of you already know, a visual presenter is really just a next-generation overhead projector with a camera mounted on top.

Film transparencies can still be viewed on it the same way they would be on an older overhead projector, but that's where the similarities end. A visual presenter has a lot more features than its predecessors, and the uses for it are really only limited by your imagination. I've seen a number of educators come up with some very interesting and imaginative applications for ELMOs:

- Hank Lepley, a fourth grade teacher at Madison Elementary in Coos Bay, Oregon, uses his ELMO visual presenter to teach a currency unit. He puts the coins and bills on the ELMO as he discusses the security features inherent to each. The presenter's zoom feature enables Lepley to show the intricate detail that is minted into each denomination.

Once Lepley's students have learned observational skills and attention to detail, he transfers that skill to the observation required of a scientist as the students begin their science inquiry process. This lesson was such a success with the students that he presented it to the district board.

- Sharon Muffett and Kevin Zenchenko, both grade six teachers at Millicoma Intermediate, also in Coos Bay, use their ELMO visual presenter daily to revise student writing assignments. The visual presenter enables them to edit the student's actual writing sample instead of copying it onto a transparency for overhead editing. Zenchenko also puts math manipulatives on the visual presenter to demonstrate math concepts.

Muffett uses it to show coral, rock and sand samples in science rather than passing those specimens around the classroom. This provides more focused instruction and

discussion rather than distracted students looking at the specimen, passing it along to the next group and missing the discussion.

- Dan Schumaker, Math Department Head at West Linn High School in Oregon, said "A frequent complaint about math teaching in the United States is that it is a mile wide and an inch deep. The ELMO lets my classes look at a problem in much greater depth, analyzing several student solutions with ease."

The time it would have taken for him to have several students show their work on the board was prohibitive. Now Schumaker observes the class, assesses their work, and selects several to show on the visual presenter.

- Tom Hull, the manufacturing technology teacher at Marshfield High in Coos Bay, uses an ELMO to show students the differences between various types of welding rods. Displaying the rods on the visual presenter allows everyone in the shop to see clearly from their seats instead of the entire class huddling around him to get a good view.

Hull also uses the ELMO to demonstrate how to read a micrometer and other precision measuring tools. He even puts car parts on the camera, then points out exactly where a part is worn. In addition, he uses it for the class to analyze a student's AutoCAD and board drawings in his drafting classes.

- West Linn Physics teacher Brian Delfatti uses ELMO much in the same way as an overhead projector: to display lecture notes and sample problems. He likes the convenience of the document camera because any type of written text can be displayed on it without the use of overhead transparencies. He also saves notes and problems done in class so students who have been absent can access them.

"What I most like about the ELMO isn't actually the ELMO at all. It is the fact that it requires a data projector to work. So, I get the use of a projector, (which I'm using almost daily with computer files), as well as the ELMO. I often bounce back and forth between them during a typical class lesson that involves some lecture notes and then some interactive example problems," said Delfatti.

- Lori Wells, Technology Director at the North Marion School District in Aurora, Oregon, said that they recently placed ELMOs on mobile media carts that teachers can check out for classroom use. These carts have a multi-media CPU, speakers, and projector to easily display various types

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of information. One teacher at the North Marion High School uses the visual presenter to teach math students how to use the graphing calculator. By demonstrating the calculator on the visual presenter, every student can see every keystroke made by the teacher at the same time.

◦ Hitomi Tamura, a Japanese Language teacher at West Linn High School puts ELMO to good use in his classroom by displaying small cultural artifacts, tickets, menus, advertisements, newspapers, magazine articles, maps, photos, etc. He explains that since the textbook doesn't come with CDs for any visuals, he relies on the ELMO on a daily basis.

Duella Scott-Hull, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Coos Bay Public Schools made the observation that these examples of visual presenter use provide just-in-time teaching applications because the instructor does not have to deal with such issues as running to the office to make transparencies or keeping dozens of files for overhead use intact and easily accessible over the years.

"The visual presenters also provide opportunities to engage learners in observation and whole class analysis of items that previously had to be passed around the classroom or shown as the students huddled around the teacher," said Scott-Hull.

"Prior to ELMO, it was easy for students in the back of the huddle to be distracted and not be a part of the discussion and instruction," added Scott-Hull.

Educators can use one that does all sorts of exciting things to keep students enthralled - and learning. ♦

To read more about the various ELMO visual presenters, go to www.elmousa.com.

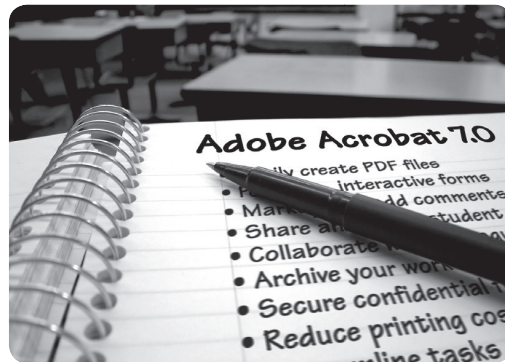
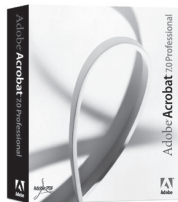
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