PACT/TPAC Conference Notes:
  Videotaping Session, presented by Marcia Sewall – University of California, San Diego

Marcia's background: 12 years MC/K-12 English/Lang. Arts teacher; 11 years with PACT, since its inception… presently at the University of California, teaching and supervising student teachers

Suggestions to consider before the Teaching Event (3-5 days learning segment):
- Ensure you have enough equipment to be checked out by the teacher candidates
- Consider deadlines for returning cameras/equipment
- Teacher candidates need to have videotaping experience prior to the final videotape clips to be submitted as part of the portfolio.
- Consider with the prior videotaping experience to have them reflect on their teaching through the analysis of the videotaped teaching episode
- Analyze videos of other teachers/movies or available through UTube. Marcia notes it can help improvement to having experienced analyzing another teaching episode, lowering the pressure.
- Marcia has also have them share in small groups their earlier teaching episodes completed during methods or an earlier field experience that has been taped (low stakes experience for them)
- A higher stakes experience noted would be for what she called video elicitation – this is done with a supervisor where the candidate shows their video and leads the conversation with the supervisor during the debriefing. The teacher candidate stops the video when they wish to respond to something, rather than the supervisor leading the conversation/analysis. The videotaping is done without the supervisor present and without the supervisor having seen the lesson plans so in viewing the candidate video, the questions will evolve from the teaching episode and not prior knowledge of what was scheduled to occur. The supervisor's job is to elicit, not advise… "Why do you think that happened?" "And your reason for that was…." "So, you moved those students apart because…"
- Marcia focused her dissertation on the study of videotaping and her findings indicated by doing so it could greatly improve reflection on the part of the teacher candidate. It was also helpful to do for noticeable growth over time… having taped in earlier field experiences through student teaching further the development of their teaching performance.
- Therefore, the bottom line is to do what she calls "dress rehearsal" in advance of completing the actual teaching event to help acclimate students and to minimize "clowning" of K-12 students during the real taping… She also distributes "Tips for Success" sheets to her teacher candidates

- Videotape clips should (a) see the students engaged in learning not to just call on those students with their hands raised (the ones who probably know the correct answer) but to engage all learners in the teaching episode.
- Another suggestion Marcia had about the clarity of the audio portion of the video, besides the use of the closeness of mics (lapel type), is for the teacher candidate to add a transcription to their portfolio, if necessary for any noted sound issues after they view the clip, if sound/audio is bad.
- The candidates need to know the criteria (rubric) they will be scored on.
- Practice- practice – practice in earlier classes/settings
- Download to the computer daily in case the "selected" clip does not tape as expected… there would then be backup clips to use.
- Clarify to cooperating teachers their role/support and what is not their role in the TPA process.
- If they choose to tape multiple days during the TPA experience, The teacher candidate doesn't have to watch every minute of every taped segment – have them think about which day they taped went well, then choose clips to watch from those particular lessons.
- Have the teacher candidates complete a technology course beforehand to learn how to effectively videotape a teaching episode vs. just videotaping a vacation event.
- Consider having a Sat. session for uploading videos into the portfolio and have tech support at hand as well as a data person to assist as needed.

Best Tips for TPAC Videos

- If possible use what you are familiar with. If you have a digital camera that you are familiar with, this is always best as you already know how to use it and how to get the data onto your computer.
- Save this data in multiple sources! It really is not fun to lose whatever it is saved on or accidentally delete it and not have another copy.
- Keep the videos short so that compressing is not needed.
- Use a lower resolution on your camera and avoid HD settings. They take up a lot more space.
- If you do your video early, you will be able to receive more help troubleshooting if necessary. It is impossible to help everyone at the last minute. Start this project early, and then you will have less stress if something goes wrong. You will have more options of fixing any issues such as redoing the video.
- Ask questions if you need help, and do this early as it will increase your odds of success.
- Technology teachers at the school, if they have time, might be the most convenient help you can get and many students have reported that this has helped them.

To use a flip camera:

1. Pull down on the slider on the left side of the camera to open the USB plug. Plug camera into the computer to charge it.
2. While you are charging it, go to my computer, open the flipvideo drive (should be E: but either way it will be clearly marked), run the setup to install flipshare on your computer.
    a. You will need flipshare to do anything with the video so might as well just install it now.
3. When the record (red) light on the front of the camera turns off the camera is charged. Unplug it.
4. When ready to use the camera, turn it on with the silver power button on the top right side of the camera.
5. Press the red button to start recording, when you are done press it again.
6. Plug the camera into your computer as before, flipshare should automatically open. If flipshare does not open, find it and open it.
7. If you want to shorten the movie, click on the scissors on the bottom right of your video file and use the sliders to adjust the start and end times.
8. Under the create box on the right click movie.
9. Drag your file to the empty space in the pop up window and click full movie.
10. Click next twice and then name your file and click create movie.
11. Go to my computer, videos, flipshare data, videos, and find your video.
12. Attach the video to whatever you want.