

Accessing and using FlipGrid

Note: These instructions are designed for student users of FlipGrid but may be used by staff as well to get started with using the tool

Flipgrid is a web based tool which allows users to collaborate and share responses to a stimulus such as a video question from your academic, or a Youtube video, by responding through short 3 minute (maximum) video. An advantage of using FlipGrid is that it allows these responses to be submitted in a range of ways which makes it easy and convenient, and moves discussion from text to an interactive environment!

You can contribute in one of three locations:

- The Flipgrid app (iOS and Android) on your smartphone or tablet/iPad
- Through the 'embedded' 'grid' or 'topic' in you Interact2 subject area
- By going directly to the Flipgrid webpage

Each of these options are explained below, using an example subject ABC123 and an example grid code and grid password. Regardless of which way you contribute to the topic, your responses to the will be visible to your fellow students!

Via Smart Phone:

- Search for and download the 'Flipgrid' app from your App Store/Google Play. It is a free download.
- Upon opening the Flipgrid app you will be prompted to search for the grid. Your academic will likely have given you the grid name in an 'announcement'. For this example, let's call the grid 'ABC123.' So you will type 'ABC123 into the search box. Note that in this search box, the hashtag is pre-filled, meaning you only need to type 'ABC123'. Note that if you leave a space at the end you will likely be informed that you have entered an invalid password. As such leave your cursor hard against the '1' so that there are no spaces.
- If you have entered the grid name correctly, you will be prompted for a password. For this example, let's call the password 'easyas'. Again, your academic will inform you of the password for the grid should there be one set.
- When prompted for your password, type it in. Again note that you need to leave the cursor hard against the last item in the password (i.e. the 's') to ensure there are no spaces.

Accessing via this interact2 site:

Flipgrids can be included in Interact2 subject sites in two main ways: The following instructions still apply for both cases:

1: a left hand menu item. If so, click onto the Flipgrid menu item and it will open the i2 content area where the flip grid can be found.

2: You might also see a flip grid included directly within the content of the learning modules.

- Find the Flipgrid. Click to open/load the Flipgrid. Once this loads it will give you a message saying the grid is locked or password protected.
- Simply enter the same password as provided by the academic, again making sure you leave the cursor hard against the '1' so that there is no 'space' at the end

Via direct weblink or web address:

Finding the Flipgrid via the web is straightforward. For example, using the address <http://flipgrid.com/#ABC123> will take you directly to the link on your desktop/laptop (mac and PC)

- The password example is again '**easyas**' and again make sure that you leave the cursor hard against the '1' so that it doesn't recognise an additional space at the end of the password

Via 'Googling' Flipgrid:

- Googling Flipgrid will take you straight to the flipgrid site (will be top of your search results).
- In the top left hand corner you will see a space to enter a grid code. Simply enter the grid code '**abc123**' and it will take you straight to the password prompt which is '**easyas**'

Adding a response

Watch these essential videos:

- Getting started with FlipGrid - <https://youtu.be/PnVFTiamzLI>
- Recording a Response - <https://vimeo.com/180760400>

Once you have successfully entered the password, you will see the original question and responses that are available to be viewed. Simply click on the stimulus video and it will play automatically, you will also then be able to view other responses and leave your own response:

- In this same space you will see a green '+' button. Pressing this green button is how you leave a response. Doing so will launch your webcam and microphone, with options available to adjust both as needed. Clicking 'record' will launch a 3,2,1 countdown.
- Now you will be able to record your you record your response.
- To record, press the red button, if you need less than the time allowed, hitting the red 'x' button will end the recording (it won't delete it). If you are happy with what you have recorded simply hit the next button (right pointing arrow at bottom of screen).

- Your academic might limit your response time to 30 seconds, but will normally allow you up to 3 minutes to respond. If you are unhappy with your contribution you are able to repeat this step as many times as you wish.
- For the first time you leave a response, you will be prompted to take a 'selfie' style photo which will be what other users see as the 'thumbnail' image that they can click on to view your response.
- You can alternatively choose one of the avatars such as a flower, but you are encouraged to take a photo as this is a great way for us to build community and 'get to know' each other a little more. Once you are happy with your picture, click next.

After recording and finalising your first response, you will be prompted to enter your name and email (email is optional)-only the grid owner will have access to your email. It is suggested that you utilize the same email address you use to receive and send communication to CSU.

You should then see a confirmation screen telling you that your video has been added to the grid. If for some reason your video isn't visible on the grid straight away, it may be that the lecturer has turned on moderation for videos.

Finally-It is also worthwhile noting that sharing to social media has been turned off, as this feature has the ability to generate a direct link to these videos. These privacy settings are to protect both staff and students and foster the sense of collaboration that this tool can provide. Also, please note that any inappropriate usage of technology (in this case Flipgrid) would be treated under standard CSU protocols for misconduct.

Trouble Shooting and Advice

Please note that utilising Flipgrid from your phone/cell provider will mean that you incur data charges through your carrier if you are not connected to a wi-fi network.

- For best results, Flipgrid recommends the use of the Google Chrome browser-some users report some issues with Firefox and Internet Explorer, although this seems to be less of an issue in 2017.
- A common issue that can prevent successful usage of Flipgrid is that your computer (specifically your browser) may not allow Flipgrid to run a 'Flash Player' pop up which FlipGrid uses to activate your webcam and microphone in order to leave a response. Check your browser notifications-(normally located near the address/search bar). Again this is less of an issue now in 2017. If Flipgrid is not recognising your webcam, it may be that you need to permit or "allow pop ups to run for this site"
- Utilise the subject forum as a first point of contact should you have any issues or have any questions about using this tool.

For further troubleshooting see <http://flipgrid.com/support/>