

A video activity for teachers to join in and connect with other teachers across Europe (this is not a competition!). The "Friends!" theme is based on the Television News project (see link below) and linked with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Read the short description, join in with your school class and share your ideas, your experiences and outcomes!

Mail us and contribute to this first short description.

What is the idea behind it?

Having friends is something we all value. The idea is to look at this as something we share, something we experience in the different countries across Europe – with the idea of stimulating communication and support personal experience.

The task supports the discussion how young people experience friendship in 'real' (face to face) and mediated (for example through internet) settings and how friendship is represented in the media (for example in television).

Linking the task with the Year of the Intercultural Dialogue does not mean that the pupils have to present friendships across cultures! At the same time it *can* be part of a short video if you like - having friends from other cultural backgrounds or from other European countries.

Main task

Produce a short video article (maximum 2 minutes) related to the theme of friendship. This could for example be a sequence of still images or drawings with a soundtrack, a short interview, narrative or a piece of dramatisation. Please finish your video by the end of August 2008 so that we can include it in our gallery linked with our September media event.

The content could be based on personal experiences or on how friendship is portrayed in the media:

Personal experiences

- Experiences with friends (past & present)
- Friendship in other people's lives

Friendship and the media

- Representation of friendship in music, soap operas, books, sayings, proverbs, ..
- Friendship and internet: the role the internet can play to start friendships, how online friendships can develop (and how they compare with 'real' friendships)

Consider the international audience of your video in the use of language (use subtitles, make a short summary or don't use any spoken language at all).



How can I do something like this with a whole class?

As with any other video project in school – we suggest that you form small teams of 3 or 4 pupils which will help to share the limited amount of technology and also help that the young people discuss what they actually want to do.

Stress the importance of preparation (versus just taking the camera and recording whatever you feel like): Discuss a first idea, plan the possible sequence of the film, possible locations, props needed, ... Design a simple storyboard together and rehearse the sequence before you actually record it. Keep the amount of video footage short to keep the post-production / editing as short as possible.

The goal is not to produce a technically high quality video but rather to have a useful activity where the pupils learn more about the media and themselves.

What happens to the finished video?

Upload your finished video on Youtube (or on a similar online streaming site) and mail us your link so that we can share them with other schools. We would also like to include your material in our online library and broadcast it on our transmission slot on the Open Channel Berlin if you are interested.

What if I have no experience with video production?

If you have never engaged with video production yourself then you can look into our handout to get started: <http://www.mediaeducation.net/EN/videoGuide.htm> Maybe somebody else in the school or from a local community centre can help you with your first steps. Or explore our European teacher training courses to become a advanced media educator! (<http://www.23muskeltiere.de/course.htm>)

Look out for video examples to appear on this web page (and hopefully yours as well).

Further links

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu

Our EU Project "Television News on Europe" – Friendship

<http://www.23muskeltiere.de/europe/en/task2.htm>

An interesting video competition from the French branch of the Goethe Institute:

<http://www.digitalfilm-frankreich.goethe.de/>

