



# Video Club Start-up Guide

Video clubs are opportunities to examine practice in a safe setting with peers. In these clubs, small groups of teachers come together to watch and discuss lesson clips during professional learning time, workshopping particular instructional activities and classroom challenges. Teachers can use the “7 Ps,” a technique adapted from the book [Gamestorming](#), as a guide to getting started with a new initiative.

<b>Pre-screen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do teachers demonstrate an interest in continued improvement?</li> <li>• Are your teachers friendly, supportive, and trusting of one another?</li> <li>• Are you willing to modify work schedules so teachers have time to meet on a regular basis?</li> <li>• Does your organization have structures in place/norms for giving and receiving feedback?</li> </ul> <p>If you can to answer yes to these questions, there is greater chance you’ll experience success with video clubs.</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	Establish a clear rationale for spending the extra time together. Why are you having this club? Is it to refine your mathematics practice? Understand common core instruction? You should be able to state the purpose clearly and succinctly.
<b>People</b>	<p>6- 8 people make a successful video club. You’ll need enough voices in the room to ensure an array of perspectives but not so many that you will overwhelm teachers with too many critiques. Once you have your members, designate roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Captain: It might be useful to designate a leader from within the group. This person will be in charge of making sure everyone is doing their part to make it successful. This person should establish his or herself as a trusted ear for teachers who feel hesitant or unfairly judged.</li> <li>• Video Guru: You will also want to identify the most technologically savvy member of the group, someone who can help troubleshoot cameras and the file sharing process.</li> <li>• Facilitator: Determine who will actually facilitate the meetings. Will it rotate among the members, or will one person act as chair?</li> </ul>
<b>Prep</b>	What are you going to ask people to do prior to the meeting? For example, Michelle Repass, a Virginia teacher <a href="#">who started a club at her school</a> , asked participants to videotape two classroom lessons—one that made a teacher proud and one that highlighted a classroom challenge the teacher needed help with. Remember to refer to your purpose in designing your pre-work.
<b>Process</b>	<p>How do you want to spend your time together?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One approach is to watch a teacher’s self-selected video clip together, spend 10 minutes asking the teacher questions about the context of the lesson, and then sharing a “glow” and “grow” from each club member.</li> <li>• Another approach is to have the teacher present his or her “teaching challenge” to the group before the clip and then have the group workshop different solutions to that challenge.</li> </ul>
<b>Pitfalls</b>	What are the risks in this meeting, and how will you address them? These could be as simple as ground rules, such as “no cellphones,” or as complex as addressing a “culture of nice,” where teachers don’t want to hurt others’ feelings and hold back important feedback. Calibrating expectations about both tone and content at the first will help the club avoid hurtful meetings and unhelpful meetings.
<b>Practical Concerns</b>	These are the logistics of the meeting—the where and when, and importantly, who is bringing the food. This is an opportunity to build a community in which people want to show up. Other practical concerns might include whether you need a projector or laptop to show video clips. Will the presenting teacher be responsible for sending copies of the lesson plan out in advance? Will you have a shared drive or folder for storing feedback or videos?

Once you have completed these steps you will be well on your way to launching a successful way for teachers to deepen their knowledge of their classroom practices together. Good luck!

