

Tech Tip of the Month – Annalisa Mosca

Using the document camera instead of overhead transparencies

Tip link: http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/category/category_slc.asp?CatId=1035

(on next page/separate document)

How many of you are still stuck with transparencies? Are you still putting a blank sheet between each one so they won't stick together?

Make the leap to the document camera! The picture here included is a document camera from the company Elmo and it's the kind your school would buy. But if ***your school wouldn't support you and money is the issue, there are portable ones that are cheaper*** (\$400+).



- You can **connect** the document camera to a simple TV or, if you have one a projector. You can also connect your computer to a document camera.

- You can **put anything on** a document camera: maps, pictures, books, objects (keychains/ceramics), boxes of products, textiles, your students' wonderful presentations/posters. You can **even put transparencies** on it, when you click the "bottom" light switch.

- You can **write in color** on a document camera. It will show up in color and you don't need special markers; you can use: pens, pencils, crayons, markers, highlighters, etc.

- You can **save paper** using a document camera, as, if it's something you just wish to show but not give to students, you can project it with the document camera.

- You can **correct** your quizzes and exams all together on a document camera. You place an exam with blank answers and write them in as you're reading them. Then, for discussing the reasons.

- The previous method also works for **samples** of what to do and not to do, (covering the students' names in order not to embarrass them), good compositions, presentations etc.

- **Enlarge or reduce** by using the "zoom" button, in the front panel of document cameras such as the one shown above. Recenter books or objects by simply with your hand moving them up, down, left, right.

- Therefore, you can **eliminate the need for posters or poster paper**: normal sheets of paper will work just fine for presentations, according to the previous two points.

Try it out! It's the easiest "new" technology ... you won't even have to learn (by training) to use.