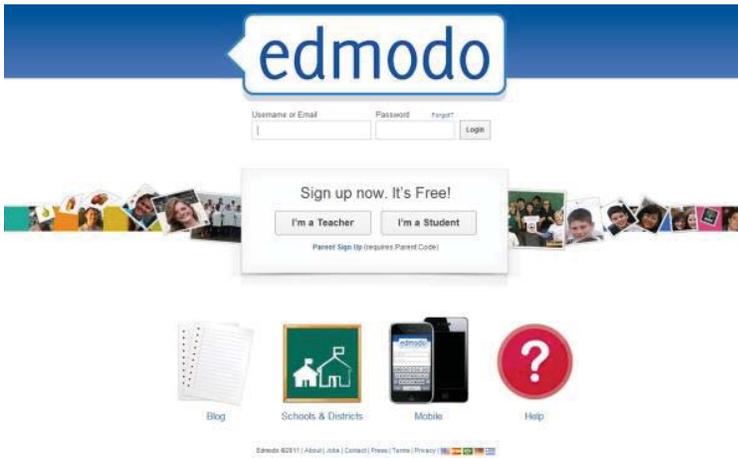# Using Technology for Language Learning
Using Edmodo to Increase Relevance in FL Instruction
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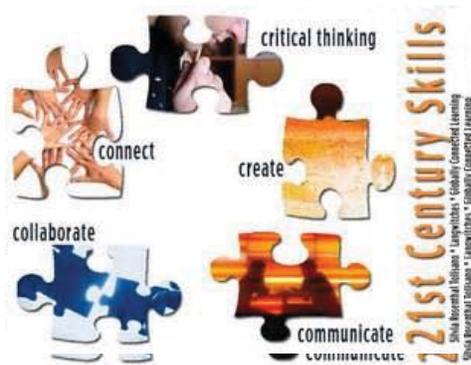

Edmodo provides a base to create excitement for your class through authentic engagement. It is 24 hour access to your teacher and your students. It is social learning. Edmodo is a great way to get students engaged and organized. It is free..... If you are new to Edmodo, it looks like Facebook so is easy to navigate and appealing. The website is www.edmodo.com .

A few advantages.....a teacher can post the agenda and handouts on the class page, with links to the wiki and other resources. Students can also post files or videos to share. It's a great help when students are absent, as they can still access the class, get the agenda, and download any handouts.   It becomes a paperless classroom.

Quick Benefits – Teaches 21st Century Skills. Allows for anytime/ anywhere learning. Allows for more participation.

Create a Teacher Lounge: teachers have a place to interact with coworkers, share ideas, and provide support. Planning committees can also meet online – teachers, students, parents and administrators can join.

Allows student collaboration: create groups for assessment, projects etc. All class documents are in one place, and homework is turned in electronically (all platforms).

12 Benefits of Edmodo

1. **Make authentic, original posts** – Give students a "Flat Stanley" or "Boo" or whatever makes them giggle or laugh and let them take turns posting where that character is and what it is doing at the time. Show students that learning and expressing themselves in the target language can be fun. Encourage students to practice their language skills through real life conversation. Create co-classrooms with students across the globe to help students learn from each other.

2. **Small group discussions** – Put the students in small groups and after the initial direct instruction and directed practice, give them something to discuss within their group. This is genuine written exchange of information that is pertinent to them. For example, ask them to discuss their plans for the weekend or how they prepare for a test. Each student must provide an initial post and then respond or ask questions of two others. Or, they can backchannel current events.

3. **Use Edmodo to gather feedback –** Edmodo has a built in feedback option for each assignment the teacher posts. The students can provide valuable comments so that the teacher can prepare to reteach a section of the lesson if the students did not understand.

4. **Get visual** – Have your students make infographics or memes to help other students (and themselves) remember or understand concepts. Once they are posted in your class, other students have access to them.

5. **Book study** – Higher level courses, Levels IV and V, can do book discussions in the target language. Book clubs can be created. Connect with other classrooms around the globe to discuss a book.

6. **Provide interaction for those absent –** Students who are sick often will "tune in" during class if you are using Edmodo, meaning they will be less behind than if they did not. Post your slideshows, videos, worksheets, and/or notes on Edmodo so they will always have access.

7. Connect with another class - Whether they are native speakers or another class learning the same language but in another part of the same country, students will get excited about meeting new people. They will still be using the target language, which is the point, but their level of engagement may go up.

8. Provide guidance and answer homework questions – When students get stuck on assignments, they can post a question (in the target language, if possible). Often, other students will answer their questions before the teacher can. If it's an upper level class, they can do all the communication in the target language. This kind of communication is entirely authentic and really helps the student with real world interactions.

9. Digitally file – Create folders for all documents, files, presentations, short videos, and projects for students to easily (and paperlessly) access from anywhere.

10. Extend the class – Use Edmodo to post cultural polls, quizzes and informational links to hook the students into material you never quite cover to your satisfaction. Have them create trailers and posters for or about the music, art, and traditions and post them in Edmodo. Make it a contest and poll for the winner of each category.

11.Role Playing – Help students understand key words, events, or stories by reenacting them through role playing activities. Students create profiles for relevant figures and integrate knowledge into action. This serves to inject life into old curriculum and helps students develop the skills of initiative, communication, problem solving, self-awareness, and working in teams.

12. Tutor connection – Communicate quizzes, assignments and tests with a tutor, either one on one or in groups. Ideas, content, and advice can be shared to further advance the potential of the students.

Edmodo has many uses from sharing resources to interacting with others. The resources can be used to flip your classroom. Edmodo can be used as a community-building platform with a secure and safe environment. It allows students and teachers to stay connected via sending notes, replying to posts and checking messages and upcoming events while away from the classroom. To sum up what are some of the uses that make this program so creative and varied:

role playing	book clubs	planning committees
assessment	professional development	current events
peer reviews and critiques	cultural exchange projects	project-based learning
writing projects	backchannel discussions	differentiated instruction
digital citizenship skills,	mobile learning	professional learning
Foreign Language practice	alumni groups	school clubs