- Mobile applications

# Useful Apps for Distance Learning

Sun.Star Pampanga · 28 Jan 2021 · B2

This pandemic brought hardships and sorrows for everyone in terms of everything especially in education.

Distance Learning is what we can do these crucial times.

There are some (mostly free) applications allow teachers to create virtual classrooms, record lessons, and collect student work. Distance learning has become the new norm in education since the advent of school closures as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and teachers have adapted— with the help of some truly amazing online applications. Through out our few months of distance learning, the following five online education applications were my life lines; they genuinely helped bring my courses to life when I couldn't be present in person with my students.

If we find ourselves in distance learning mode again this fall, they will be on the front lines of my course delivery. Some essential apps useful are the following.

Flip grid is a free online application that allows students and teachers to record short, online videos. Teachers can easily create accounts and then within accounts create "classrooms." Similar to Google Classroom, students join classrooms via a code. From there, teachers can create posts for students to respond to via short videos.

The settings can be manipulated to allow only teachers to see responses or for students to be able to see and respond to each other's videos. Flip grid is a fantastic oral communication application that is easy to use. It can be adapted to almost any age group or subject area effectively.

An online video editor with free and paid accounts,We Video has offered free upgrades to accounts for teachers and students during the pandemic, which I took immediate advantage of. I'm hoping that if distance learning continues they will extend this program.

We Video is another application teachers and students can join via a Google account, and it also can link and upload directly to Google Drive, which was an added convenience when students were submitting work. Teachers can also make a "class" within the application and have students join their class via a special code.

The actual video editor program is absolutely the easiest and most user friendly I've found. I also like that We Video has stock images, videos, templates, music, and sound effects, which make video creation a snap.

Through this application, you can able to transform many of my assignments to a video communication format, and you would be happier with the results.

Google Forms is one very useful for online teaching. This application is often used to gather information in a variety of contexts (surveys, quizzes, etc.). Its quiz feature can be enabled to block users from opening other windows. It also offers auto grading for multiple-choice tests. I've used Google Forms in my classroom regularly; however, it be came a daily application in my classes during distance learning.

I used it for pre-assessments, quizzes, and surveys. Google Forms is userfriendly and free if you have a G Suite account. It's a great way to ensure students are on track and to allow them an anonymous way to share feedback with you as a teacher.