

Phil Longwell Interview Summary (TH)

MP4

Interviewed at BETT 2017 January 26th 2017 (without the interview questions template)

Q. What are the benefits of video for a teacher trainee?

A. If it's a pre-recorded video given by the teacher trainer then the main benefit is being able to watch it in your own time, like flipped learning you watch the stimulating material outside the class and discuss it in the classroom. Phil has never been a teacher trainer but has made a lot of video for students - not always successfully. Mostly with Chinese Art students in Beijing who were quite creative

Q. Have you ever videoed yourself teaching?

A Yes - he videoed teaching on his CELTA course in Norwich and looking back he's surprised at how he taught then, did everything according to CELTA guidelines to the letter which he hadn't done before or since.

1 PL: i have. i videoed myself on my celta course which
2 was in norwich. ive got a video of that of me
3 doing it. and looking back on it now (xxxx) wow
4 did i really do it like that. i couldnt believe
5 it because it was like to the letter how celta ask
6 you to do it to train. so because i hadnt done it
7 before and I havent done it since it was quite
8 interesting.

Q Did they ask you to do that?

A. No - you have to give a critique of your own teaching after each session to the trainer and then it's opened up to the other trainees. But video is the best way to be able to look back at something and see what you look like. For trainee teachers it's a good way of being reflective - that's the key thing.

10 PL: no they didnt. obviously you know with celta you
11 are asked to give a critique on your own
12 performance when you do the teaching when you tutor
13 the students for real. so they do encourage you to
14 first of all after every session give the trainer
15 your feedback on how you do and then they will open
16 you up to the other trainees as to how you think
17 youve done. but i always think video is the best
18 way of being able to look back at something and to
19 see what you look like. so for training teachers
20 for teachers learning its a great way for looking
21 back and being reflective. thats the key thing
22 being reflective.

Q. So you independently decided to video yourself - for pedagogic reasons or for vanity?

A Not for vanity or it would be out on all the social media. It was purely for his own personal reflection because he knows he makes a lot of mistakes when he stands up and speaks. A video for a trainee to look at and reflect on is always good.

He's been a pioneer in this area, he's had a camcorder for years. He bought a camcorder in South Korea to video the students practising speaking for a speech contest. He would look back on the video in detail to critique the student's accent and style etc. It's a great tool for reflective practice.

Commented on how camcorders are a bit 'old tech' as people now record on their mobile phones.

25 TH: from a pedagogy point of view or just vanity.
26 PL: its never for vanity (xxxx). if it was for vanity
27 it would be out there on the internet. it would be
28 on youtube and id be tweeting about it. no its not
29 for vanity. its purely for my own personal
30 reflection because i know i make a lot of mistakes.
31 i used to do. i still do. i make a lot of mistakes
32 when i stand up and speak. even today ive seen
33 somebody giving a presentation. she was great but
34 she was going so fast that you know you just want
35 to say slow down. but everyones kind of given 20
36 or 30 minutes. so a video for trainees to look back
37 and then reflect on how theyre doing is always
38 good. and ive always been at the forefront myself
39 of using.

Q What did you do with the video of yourself that you made?

A He watched it but he never showed to anybody else, he didn't need to. But for an LT SIG webinar for IATEFL he took an extract as an example of his teaching in the past to show himself as 'TeacherPhili' - his 'brand' since went gone 'freelance'. More of his videos can be found here: <https://teacherphili.wordpress.com/videos/>

Q What did you learn?

A He could iron out some rough spots. For the CELTA teaching he was very slow, using Concept questions, including all students etc. as expected on the course. Has videoed other situations and has let the students use the camera. On one course he made a video with students in 6 days against all expectations.