

Explanatory videos as a tool to discuss a thesis

Goals

Creating explanatory videos is an excellent way of getting discourses going and encouraging students to express their own opinions. The production of explanatory videos in group work offers the opportunity to discuss a specific topic. The children and adolescents learn to find their opinions within the group and to represent them through arguments to the other group members. As an entire group, the participants must finally agree on a direction and thus take a position before they actually start creating the video.

Once this process begins, arguments need to be collected again and core theses need to be found. In this way, the children and young people learn to express their opinions or, if this is not the case, to adopt a different point of view and support it argumentatively. At the same time, media literacy is promoted by the participants getting to know a new tool and creating their own video in a team effort.

In this way, different topics relevant to the participants can be taken up and reflected upon, for example "usage of smartphones in youth centres". This plays an important role for most visitors to youth centres and polarises them, which is why it is very suitable for discussion.

Implementation

After a possible introduction to the topic "use of smartphones in youth centres", the respective tool will be presented depending on the age group of the participants. Irrespective of this, it is advisable to first show an example of an explanatory video so that the children or young people can see the goal and get an idea of how their video could look when it is finished. The most important functions of the respective tool can then be presented to make it as easy as possible for the participants to get started with the application.

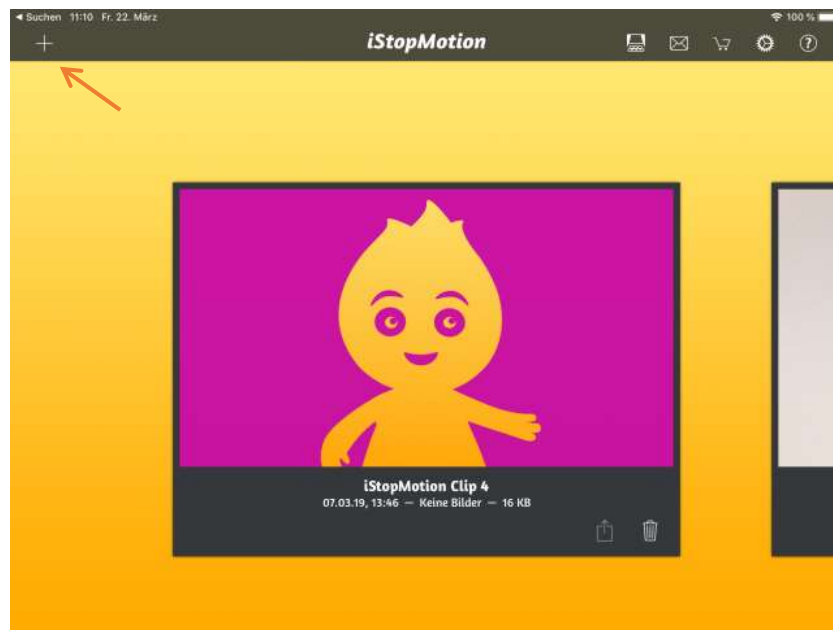
Once they have come together in small groups, the first step should be for them to agree on their position and discuss their point of view. A clear thesis should be presented in the explanatory video, for example "upsides of smartphones in youth centres" or "downsides of smartphones in youth centres". Once the participants have agreed on a thesis, the production of the video can begin. Several tools with varying degrees of difficulty can be used for this purpose.

Explanatory videos with iStopMotion

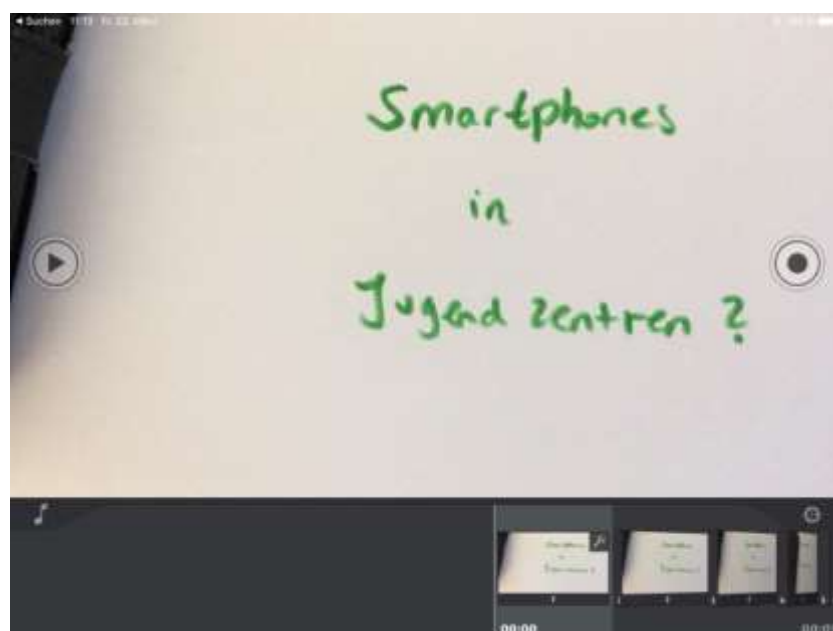
The "iStopMotion" app offers a very simple and child-friendly way to create explanatory videos. With this app you can easily create animated films in 2D or 3D, which is already possible with preschool children under pedagogical supervision. However, the time required is considerably higher than with explanatory video apps such as "MySimpleShow".

The production of animated explanatory videos with the help of "iStopMotion" offers the participants great freedom: It works without a predetermined grid and can be individually designed by the children, depending on their age, for example with a short story that illustrates their attitude towards the subject. The participants should agree on these before shooting and record them in a storyboard so that it is clearly defined what is spoken in each scene and what can be seen in the picture. The next step is to create the respective backgrounds, figures, objects and other materials that should appear in the film.

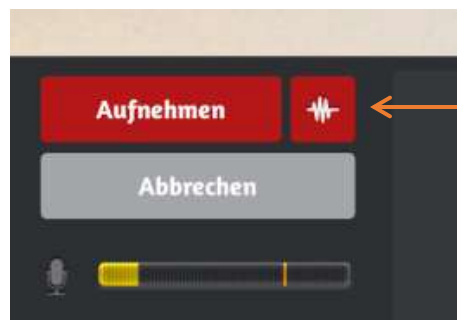
The subsequent shooting is easily possible via the "iStopMotion" app and should be accompanied more or less intensively by a youth worker depending on the age of the children. The respective scenes are photographed step by step using the round button on the right and automatically joined together by the app to create a film in the style of a flicker book.



All images: Own screenshots taken in iStopMotion, Explain Everything, mysimpleshow.com and iMovie



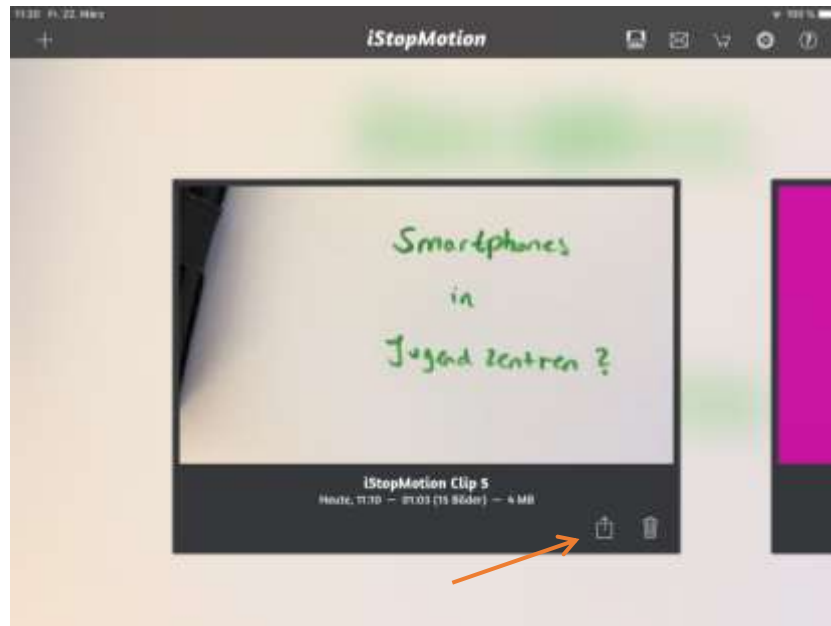
After the photos have been taken, spoken text can be recorded and inserted.



To save the video, first tap on the "Gallery" button in the upper left corner,



Followed by the "share" icon.



Individual explanatory videos with "Explain Everything"

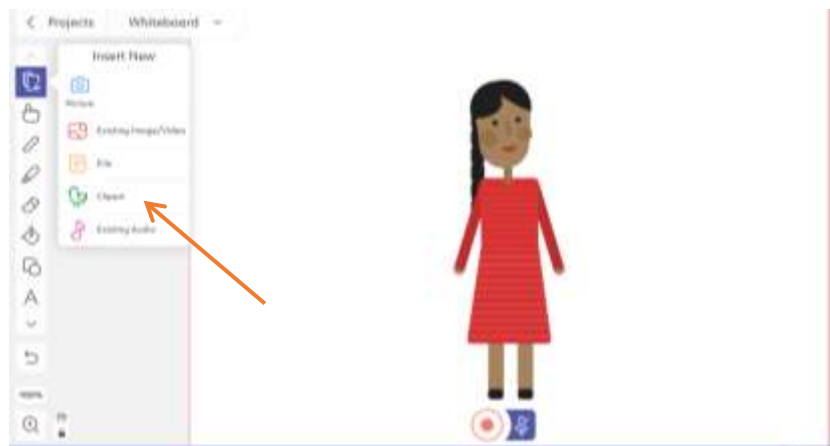
"Explain Everything" is suitable for children and youths as an alternative with a relatively low degree of difficulty. Using the tool, slides can be equipped with images, graphics, texts, sound recordings and much more. Afterwards they can be stored and played back as video. The application offers some ready-made drawings in comic style for insertion, but you can also upload your own photos or saved, rights-free images.

The creation of the slides works very intuitive and is also possible for participants of lower age after a more or less short introduction. There is no fixed grid so that the participants can give free rein to their creativity and create more individual products than the classic explanatory videos.

First the participants select an empty slide.



You can then use the bar on the left to select and insert your own images, existing clipart templates, videos and much more.



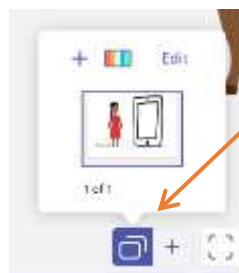
In order to present arguments or to display the topic, text can be inserted and edited using the same bar.



The recording of spoken text is possible using the red button.



To create another slide, click the button at the bottom right.



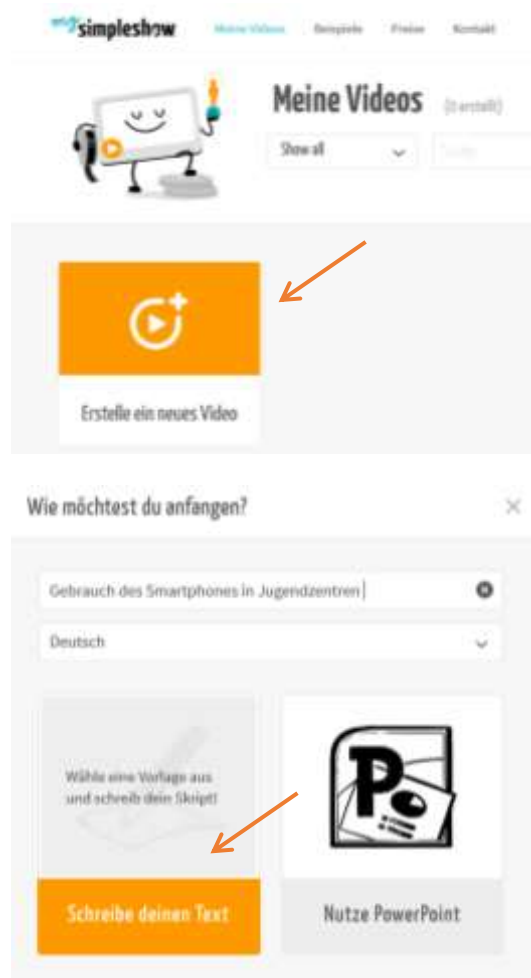
The button at the top left allows you to save the video or share a link.



Classic explanatory videos with "MySimpleShow"

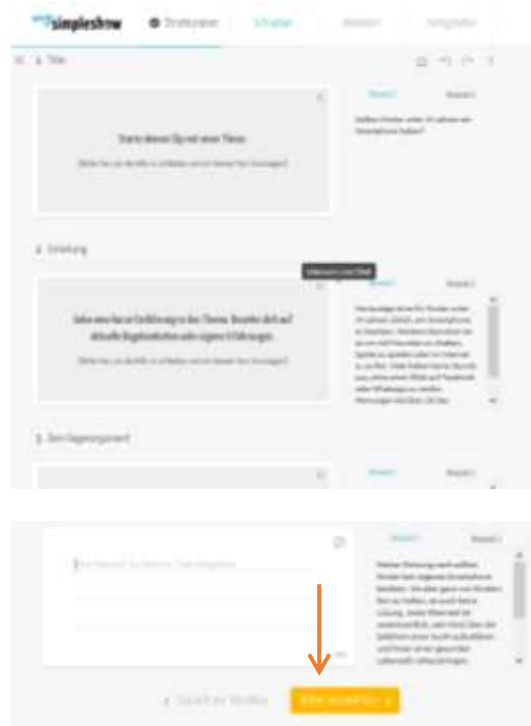
The "MySimpleShow" tool makes it possible to produce classic explanatory videos in which the typical hand-wiping movements and comic-style images can be seen. This can be very appealing and the creation is rather easy, but can be challenging for younger children or participants with less media literacy.

The first step is to select from a number of predefined basic frameworks - for example, to compare several options, explain an exercise, explain a recipe and much more. The form of a pro- and contra-discussion is particularly suitable for the question about the use of the smartphone in youth centres. The given framework facilitates the production of the video.





The next step is to formulate the text for the explanatory video. "MySimpleShow" also provides a logically structured framework with the theme of the individual points, in which the participants then introduce their own sentences, so that a common theme is created. The topic and context will be explained, for example by means of a fictional character, and controversial aspects will be pointed out. The participants formulate a clear thesis that represents their position on the topic. In the following, this thesis must be supported by arguments. Once the formulation is complete, the button "Add pictures" is clicked at the bottom.

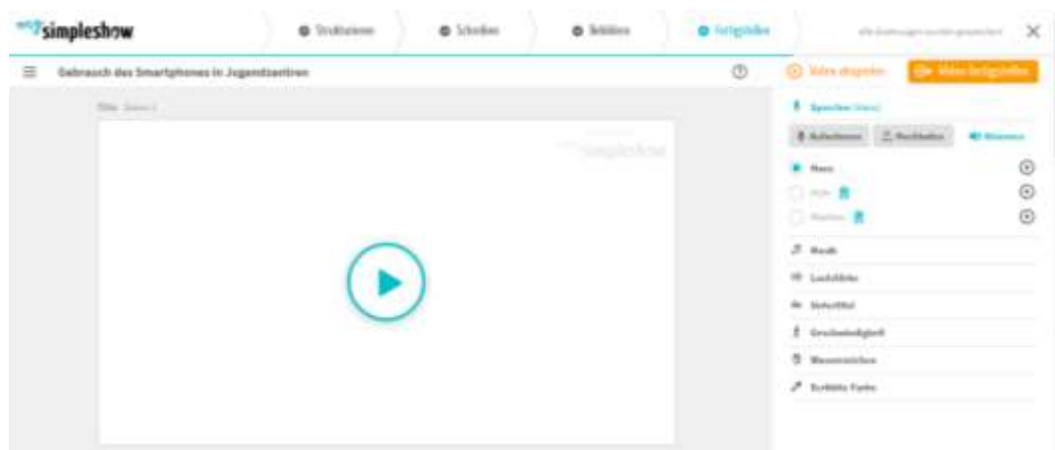


In the next step images matching the text will be selected. The tool automatically suggests images on the basis of the entered text. If, however, the participants would like to select other pictures instead of the suggested ones, this can be technically challenging under certain circumstances, so that they need support. Then other words can be marked as keywords and new pictures can be selected so that "MySimpleShow" displays matching pictures and you can replace them

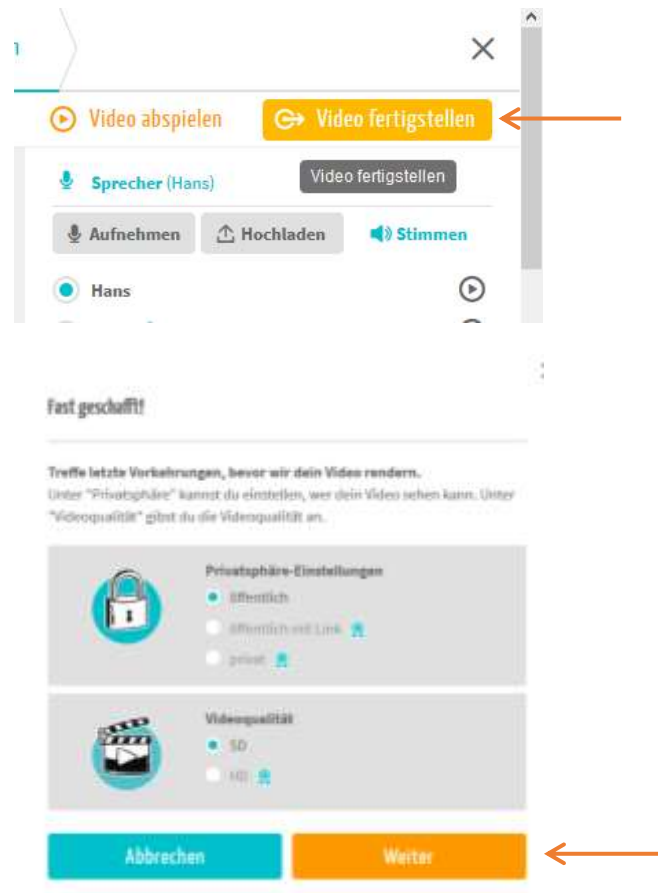
with the suggested ones. Once this step is completed, click the "Add Audio" button below.



In the last step, the participants can choose the voices of the speakers who automatically read the written text or alternatively they can make their own recording so that their voice can be heard in the explanatory video.



To save the video, click on the "Finish video" button in the upper right corner and then select the privacy settings. Click "Next" to finish the video.

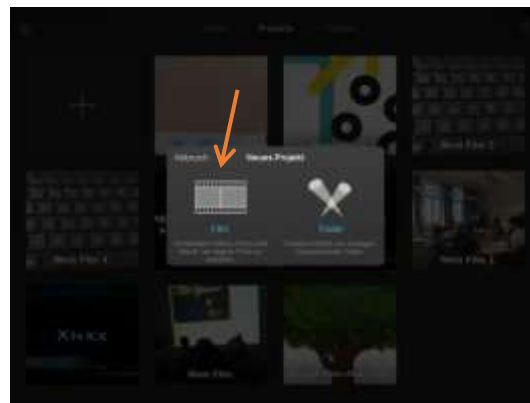
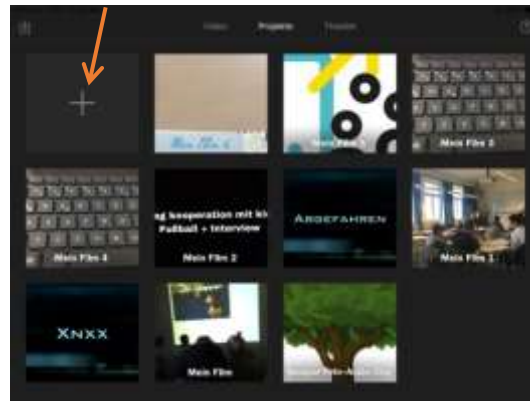


Explanatory video in vlogging style with "iMovie"

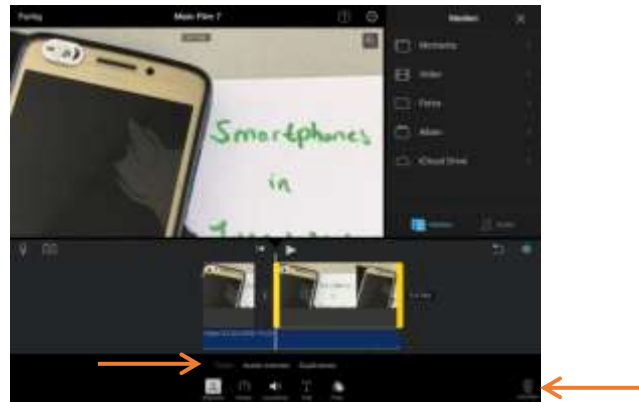
In a vlogging style explanatory video, a presenter speaks directly into the camera and explains a topic using only his or her voice and, if necessary, a few tools. The term vlogging stands for a video blog, as it is conducted by numerous YouTube stars and is therefore well-known and popular among most young people, which is the appeal of this alternative.

When creating your own explanatory video in this style, the personality of the moderator is in the foreground and a high level of self-confidence is required. In addition, very good preparation in the sense of a fixed shooting schedule is necessary. The schedule includes what is said and shown and when certain scenes are going to be recorded. The arguments must be presented in exactly the right order and, if necessary, pre-formulated. This intensive preparation can be a very big challenge besides the moderation. The shooting of an explanatory video in vlogging style is demanding and therefore more suitable for older and motivated young people. In addition, the topic should not be too complicated, otherwise the video could quickly become confusing.

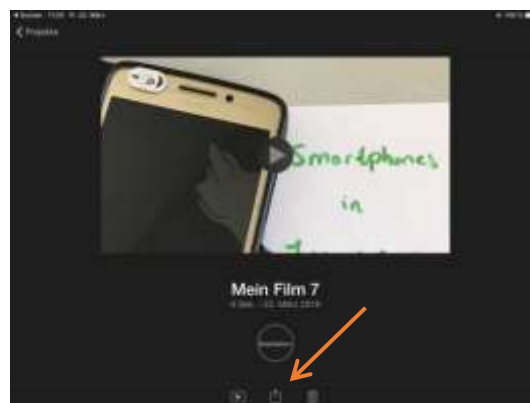
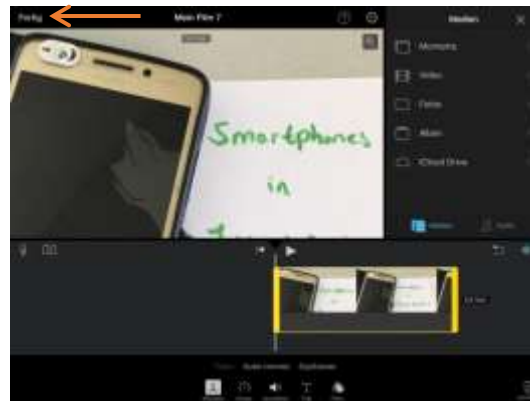
Once the shooting schedule has been set, the video recording can be easily carried out with the "iMovie" app.



It also allows you to crop the video later and is easy to understand. Tap the video to make it yellow and pop up options at the bottom. Here the "Actions" button takes you to the "Split" option, which splits the video at the appropriate point and deletes the superfluous sections by clicking the trash can icon at the bottom right.



By tapping the "Finish" button in the upper left corner, the video can then be shared and saved.



Impact

The creation of an explanatory video creates a discourse among equals that serves as a basis for forming one's own opinion. Young people are being encouraged to reflect on and critically deal with topics. They learn to take a stand, to represent their point of view to the outside world in a meaningful way and to argue in a reflective way. In addition, they also put themselves in other positions.

Linguistic competence is enhanced by the pointed phrasing that is necessary when creating an explanatory video and the pronunciation of the text. If production takes place in groups, oral communication and the ability to work in a team are trained as well. Creative skills are also trained, for example in selecting images that match the spoken text. The use of a digital tool for creating explanatory videos also promotes media competence.

Resources

To create explanatory videos with "MySimpleShow" and "Explain Everything", WiFi and tablets or computers are required. If a video is shot in the vlogging style or an animated film, Apple smartphones or iPads as well as tripods and for the latter additional handicraft materials are required.

Links

- mysimpleshow.com
- explaineverything.com
- apple.com/de/imovie



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