

Creating a Book Recommendation Video

By: Emily Crandall, Student Assistant, Iowa Reading Research Center and Sean Thompson, Communications Specialist, Iowa Reading Research Center

Intended Grade Range: Grades 4 and up

Combining reading and technology may motivate students to pick up a book. By providing students the opportunity to film a book recommendation video, they will have something to look forward to once they finish reading. Creating videos in the classroom also can be an exciting way for students to hear recommendations from their classmates about what book they should read next. This resource provides sentence starters to help students think about points to address in their videos as well as special considerations for filming.

Filming Tips

- If you do not have access to a video camera or DSLR camera with video capabilities, most tablet or smartphone cameras can be used to produce HD videos suitable for posting online.
- Use a tripod if available. If not, assign another student to be the videographer and hold the camera as steady as possible.
- Set up the camera in a quiet place with minimal background noise.
- Do not film in front of a busy background as it can be distracting to the viewer.
- Speak loudly, clearly, and slowly.
- Have students hold up the book they are recommending during the video.
- Download videos from the camera shortly after completion to avoid accidental file loss.
- If you plan to post the videos on the web anywhere other than a school intranet, make sure you obtain permission from parents via a video release form.
- Have fun! Don't make it seem like students are reading from a script the entire time.

For more on student use of technology as a motivational factor for reading, see the Iowa Reading Research Center blog post [“Using Technology to Motivate Young Readers in the Age of Digitalization”](#) by Buford Garner Elementary School Fifth-Grade Teacher Annika Wasson.

My Book Recommendation Video

In this video, you and a book you really enjoyed are going to be the stars of the show! After you have finished reading a book, you will film a video where you talk about what happens in the book, why you liked it, and why you are recommending it to other students.

Prepare to film your video by completing the sentences below.

Sentence Starters for Your Video

1. My name is _____.

2. I recommend the book (*title*) _____ by (*author*) _____.

4. This story takes place in _____.

5. My favorite character was (*character name*) _____. One thing I liked about this character was _____.

3. I recommend this book because (*state one or two reasons*) _____

6. My favorite part was _____

_____ because _____

7. I could relate to the part about _____ because _____

8. If you like to do things like _____

_____ then you will like this book

because _____.

9. Overall, I give this book (*pick a number between 1 and 5*) _____ stars.

10. My name is _____ and I

recommend the book (*title*) _____ by (*author*) _____

_____.