

IN THE KNOW

Converting Media Files to Fit Your Classroom Needs

There are so many different resources available on the World Wide Web that would be great to use in your classroom. However, with some restrictions at schools, using files found on the internet may seem like an impossible feat. It is also difficult to continually look up online links when you need to use them (and remembering where they are located online). Converting files off the internet to another file format is a solution to both of these issues. Media/file converters take a web link and convert them to a file type of your choice (whether it is a picture, video, PDF, etc.) for you to save directly on your computer or flash drive for you to open any time you want – without having to go online! How does it work? Follow these simple steps:

- 1. Find a Media/File Converter:** There are several different online programs that are free (may require registration) and available without downloading software.
 - ★ Zamzar—<http://www.zamzar.com/>
 - ★ Media Converter—<http://www.mediaconverter.org/>
- 2. Use FEFE's Step-By-Step Guide:** FEFE has prepared a step-by-step guide on how to use the two resources listed above. Read more at http://fefe.arizona.edu/sites/fefe.arizona.edu/files/Video_clips_relating_to_Fin.Ed_1.0.11.pdf
- 3. Need Help? Want More Ideas? Ask Questions and Share Your Thoughts:** Join the [FEFE Technology Integration Online Community](#) to ask any questions or concerns, share student work, and join the conversation! You can also contact the FEFE staff anytime at fefe@cals.arizona.edu.



Convert files such as this clip from Saturday Night Live - "Don't Buy Stuff" to use in your classroom (Credit 4.0, Savings 14.0) without having to go online. For a list of other video clips with coordinating FEFE units, check out FEFE's [Video Clips Relating to Financial Education](#) document.

Other Alternatives to YouTube

For classroom-friendly videos, use any of the listed websites below as alternatives to using YouTube:

- ★ SchoolTube (<http://www.schooltube.com/>) - A place for students and teachers to share videos online.
- ★ TeacherTube (<http://teachertube.com/>) - Teachers like you share videos they use in their classrooms.
- ★ KidsTube (<http://kidstube.com/>) - A kid-friendly, filtered version of YouTube.
- ★ WatchKnowLearn (<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/default.aspx>) - Free educational videos organized by discipline.
- ★ Clipblast (<http://clipblast.com/#welcome>) - A video search/directory, which helps access videos across the web.
- ★ neoK12 (<http://www.neok12.com/>) - Educational videos as well as lessons and games.
- ★ Snag Learning (<http://learning.snagfilms.com/a>) - A collection of documentaries.
- ★ Vimeo (<http://vimeo.com/>) - A large collection of homemade videos.

★ CURRICULUM UPDATES

Movies and Games in the Classroom

Movies

Movies bring classroom content to life and can be an excellent enhancement to a personal finance course. FEFE provides the following active learning tools to help you integrate movies with personal finance content into your classroom:

Some of these movies are rated PG or PG-13. Use the [Parent/Guardian Movie Approval Letter template](#) to receive approval from your student's parents/guardians to show these and other personal finance related movies during your course.

Movie Active Learning Tools	Potential FEFE Unit Connections
Mr. Holland's Opus 5.0.40	Careers 1.0
The Devil Wears Prada 5.0.41	Careers 1.0
Bee Movie 5.0.42	Careers 1.0
Catch Me If You Can 5.0.43	Consumer Protection 3.0, Depository Institutions 7.0
Confessions of a Shopaholic 5.0.44	Careers 1.0, Credit 4.0,
The Pursuit of Happyness 5.0.49	Careers 1.0, Paychecks and Taxes 13.0,
The Money Pit 5.0.53	Consumer Protection 3.0, Housing 9.0
Mr. Deeds 5.0.55	Investing 12.0

Don't have time to incorporate an entire movie into your course?

Use the [Video Clips Relating to Financial Education 1.0.11](#) to find short video/movie clips.

Games

Online games are an excellent resource for the personal finance classroom. The student-oriented [Consumer Jungle](#) website includes an extensive games section with a search feature and direct student access. The [Internet Games Relating to Financial Education 1.0.10](#) resource has been developed specifically for educators and outlines classroom-friendly online games. Below are a few of FEFE's favorite online games:



Internet Games	Potential FEFE Unit Connections
Celebrity Calamity	Credit 4.0, Spending Plans 15.0
SPENT	Receiving 20.0
Savings Quest	Saving 14.0
Financial Football or Financial Soccer	Any and all!

Continue the conversation!
Join the [Technology Integration](#) online community group to further discuss how to integrate movies and games in your classroom.

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet FEFE Ohio State Educator, Suzanne Hirsch Hudson High School in Hudson, Ohio

Incorporating Service Learning Into Your Financial Education Course



Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” This quote perfectly describes the value of service learning (SL) and inspired me to institute service learning into my course curriculum.

An agency that has many suggestions to help with beginning an SL project is www.partnershipsmakeadifference.org. They provide a legacy journal available for purchase to help students plan their service-learning project and a DVD entitled “The World of Children” with stories of student heroes that created an SL project that had far-reaching results.

We can talk until we are blue in the face about important lessons students need to know. I have seen firsthand that when students take the learning out of the classroom and put it into practice or share it with a community group or agency, it creates meaning for them. Intrinsicly the rewards are rich because you have affected another person’s life with your actions. The FEFE curriculum, because it is hands on, is a natural way to implement service learning outside of the classroom. There are many agencies that will help in our communities with placement, ideas, support, and, oftentimes funding for costs incurred with service learning (i.e. transportation, materials, etc.). Some groups that may want to help with organization and funding are Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, or perhaps a local insurance agency.

The possibilities are endless. Are you fresh out of ideas? FEFE has great SL ideas indicated by the [family/community connection icon](#) located within the tips section of the lesson plans. There are many different options available for you to explore and utilize. [FEFE Enhancement Tools](#) also contain applications to lessons that can be presented to the community. It is recommended by our Service Learning Specialist to start with one class at a time when adding an SL event.



Here are some ideas listed in current lesson plans and Enhancement Tools to help get you started on your very own service-learning project:

- ★ [Budgeting for a Baby 1.15.1](#)- Meet with the local nursery school parents or the GRADS Teen Parents Program and present this lesson.
- ★ [Choosing to Save 1.14.1](#) or [Saver's Challenge 6.14.2](#)- This lesson involves presenting a savings lesson at the local elementary school. We read an age-appropriate book on Savings, helped the 2nd graders paint piggy banks, and gave the teacher a chalkboard piggy bank for students to save for a cause of their choice. They chose Saving the Sea Turtles because they have been studying this topic. Many teachers who heard about this lesson asked to borrow the book we shared and the lesson content ideas to show their own young children at home.

- ★ [Spending Plan 1.15.2](#)- This lesson would be perfect to share with local community groups or within your own school. Students can teach a budgeting lesson by using the Play Dough activity and presenting a PowerPoint displaying the recommended spending amounts pie chart and show the tracking methods of expenses. Students could also teach about needs vs. wants and financial decision making using the [Shake Out My Future Activity 1.17.3.A1](#).
- ★ [Does Money Grow on Trees 2.1.1](#)- Consider organizing student presentations for required student college readiness meetings with the guidance counselors. During one of those meetings, students could facilitate the [Education vs. Income Tower activity 2.1.1.H2](#).
- ★ [Paycheck Particulars 6.13.1](#)- Complete a survey and present the results to parents.
- ★ [Internet Safety Ideas 6.3.1](#)- Create a display and present to elderly community members.
- ★ [Just Shopping with Mom 6.17.1](#)- Present to elementary classrooms concerning needs and wants.
- ★ [Savings Campaign 6.14.3](#)- Educate public about the importance of savings.

I am merely scratching the surface here with ideas for SL; perhaps we could all share ideas within the [FEFE Online Communities](#). A few groups that I recommend sharing SL ideas are [Triple P](#), [Extension](#), [FEFE Business Teachers](#), and [FEFE's Fab FACS](#).

Join the Conversation and become a FEFE Online Community member!



Fraud of the Month

“Get your degree in 30 days!” Sound too good to be true? It probably is. Beware of education scams. Check out this month’s fraud at <http://consumerjungle.org/fraud/work-from-home>



Jungle Talk

Congratulations to our four student editor winners for the first Jungle Talk Article Writing Contest! Watch the Consumer Jungle website as each student is featured monthly. Remember, articles are accepted year-round so have your students participate. Find out more at <http://consumerjungle.org/jungle-talk/contest/rules>.



Contests

[Coming Soon](#): “Your Money – It All Add\$ Up” Poster Contest will be available starting March 5! More details will be online at <http://consumerjungle.org/contests> soon!



FRAUD OF THE MONTH

Education Scams

February 2012

THE “HOOK”

We’ve all heard the ads on TV or radio or seen them on the internet: “Get your degree in 30 days!” or “Get retrained in computer software and learn IT skills!” ...on an incredibly low easy payment plan. “Our skilled graduates almost always find high paying jobs.” Many of the ads even mention federal grants and school loans to help offset the cost of education. When you’re desperate and out of work, just about anything sounds good. Many of the ads say the degree or certification is legal and the jobs will be plentiful. And certainly the offering of training online or at night has great appeal by limiting housing and transportation costs.

THE WHOLE STORY

There are two types of fake degrees: diploma mills and **fake degrees for sale**. The latter type is easy to recognize, and you are part of the fraud thinking that a phony diploma with a seal on it involving no courses, studying, exams, or other review will fool an employer. There is a strong likelihood you will ultimately be exposed along with the overseas maker of the phony degree. The **diploma mill** on the other hand offers to convert your life’s experiences into coursework (with grades based on your own self-assessment). Often these schools claim to be accredited institutions of higher learning, but they operate without state supervision or a professional accrediting agency. The diplomas offered are scams however, because the “institution” lacks proper standards. The laws in the various states on phony degrees are inconsistent and enforcement is often lacking, so don’t be taken in.

THE LESSON

You generally will be best served by applying to a non-profit educational institution. Community colleges generally provide a very good bang for the buck. All must have accreditation by a recognized body requiring certain standards to be met. Most have student financial aid programs and offer many vocational programs, sometimes in combination with internships or apprenticeships. Moreover, they provide great transfer opportunities to the public universities in their state.

On the other hand, many private for-profit colleges and trade schools pay recruiters a commission for every student they sign up, and you know what that means...a possible high-pressure sales pitch and potential for misrepresentation of costs and job opportunities. The federal government, thanks to a recent Frontline story and complaints to Congress, has cracked down on many “for-profit” colleges for not teaching to sufficiently rigorous standards and for being overpriced diploma mills. The Feds’ hammer: not allowing Pell grants and federally subsidized student loans to be utilized for tuition to those schools.

Accreditors & schools identified in websites maintained by the U.S. Department of Education www.ed.gov or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA www.chea.org) are likely to be legitimate.

Visit www.consumerjungle.org
to learn more

