

## FORUM MAGAZINE

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### FILM FOR FLUENCY

Donley states that Film for Fluency is a technique in which students watch a video, where native speakers are in certain situations, and have to pay attention to answer some questions in a previously given sheet. This sheet, as well as the video, tries to facilitate the students understanding. According to the author, using a film in a class requires good preparation from teachers. Donley recommends choosing interesting films taking into account the students age, their sex and the film genre. She states that action and adventures films are very good choices. The author proposes that the teacher needs to prepare very carefully the viewing sheets. Students must know the vocabulary used since this is a fluent, speaking exercise. For this reason, the prediscussion of the film is very important. Also, the easier the answers, the bigger the students' involvement. The author emphasizes four steps in the technique of Films for Fluency:

- Previewing : the teacher introduces the vocabulary needed, reads the questions of the viewing sheet, and asks students to predict the answers.
- Viewing: students have to understand at least the main parts of the film and to answer the questions in the sheets.
- Postviewing discussion: after the end of this activity, the teacher asks for any doubts, checks the students' understanding, corrects questions from the viewing sheet, and asks students' opinion about the film.
- Reviewing: the teacher refreshes the students' minds briefly, talking about the new vocabulary, characters, etc.

From an experience with her own students, Donley reports that American films are a good manner to teach American culture to students. Just learning the language does not mean that the culture is understood. The author comments that her students from Uzbekistan only understood the Halloween holiday because of the film ET, which showed children asking for 'trick or treat'. To conclude, the author mentions that films are great resources for intermediate-level teachers and students. And that viewing sheets are important tools in this process as well as the students' efforts. " The Film for Fluency technique gives teachers and students a structure to maximize language learning, so that students do more than just watch television" (pg. 27).