



TED-Ed lessons & TED-Ed clubs: Educational activities to amplify students' voices

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TED-Ed lessons and TED-Ed clubs are two powerful educational tools that can be used in today's school classrooms in order to create an educational environment that is engaging for the students and favors their active participation, created and fostered by TED-Ed. TED-Ed is TED's educational initiative, committed to create lessons worth sharing and amplify the voices and ideas of teachers and students around the world.

TED-Ed animated lessons are fully organized lessons structured around an animated video that introduces new topics to learners in an exciting, thought-provoking way. These lessons have been created as a result of the cooperation between expert educators and animators and have been uploaded at the TED-Ed platform (<http://ed.ted.com>). On the other hand, TED-Ed Clubs are also an interesting way to offer students the chance, the voice and the opportunity to express their thoughts, engage actively on these matters and connect with each other, both at a local, as well as at an international level (<http://ed.ted.com/clubs>).

By developing new TED-Ed lessons or by customizing appropriately existing animated TED-Ed lessons (translating, modifying the questions asked, introducing new discussion topics), I have created and implemented in my student-centered, didactic approach, a series of TED-ED animated lessons directly connected with the Greek national science syllabus that were used to spark students curiosity and initiate a further analytical discussion or introduce other relevant educational activities (<http://gvillias.wixsite.com/education>).

Furthermore, at my school, we established Varvakeio TED-Ed Club, an environment that supports and empowers our students to research, develop and disseminate their own personal ideas that worth spreading. During the year, our members were inspired by watching TED talks presented by experts on their field on various different areas, including social, economical, environmental and technological-scientific issues. Our aim was that every student would create his own 5 to 10-minute presentation regarding an issue or idea that he considered to be of great value for him, he would analyze it briefly and he would offer his own personal meaningful insight and perception of this. Step by step our students managed to structure the backbone of their own speeches, look deeper into their ideas, consult their co-members and take into consideration their recommendations and ideas, develop their presentations and present their very own TED club talk to the rest of the members of our TED-Ed club.