

Using video to develop outstanding educators

Practical techniques to help educators harness the power of video for self-reflection, coaching and collaboration.



Swivl

Video in education today

Today more than ever before, video plays an essential role in hybrid and remote education.

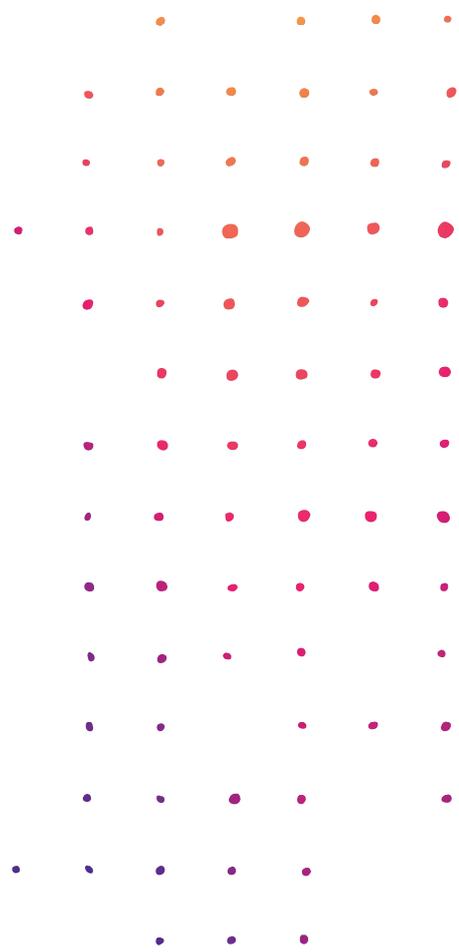
But there's more to video than lessons online. When implemented correctly, video can create extraordinary developmental opportunities for educators. Using video for self-reflection, coaching, and collaboration can accelerate the adoption of best practice pedagogy and lead to better student outcomes.

It's powerful stuff.

About this guide

If you're an educator or school administrator looking to gain a deeper understanding of the benefits of video tools in your classroom, you've come to the right place. This helpful guide will demonstrate how you can cultivate best teaching practices using video observation. We'll examine this across three areas:

- Teacher self-evaluation – Develop your teaching practice and determine your focus on what best supports you and your students
- Peer and mentor coaching – Facilitate professional growth by collaborating with peers and mentors to gain invaluable insight into improving your teaching practice.
- Hybrid and online learning - Empower your students to engage and collaborate in the classroom and online at



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**There is no
better way to
develop as a
teacher, than
to watch
yourself teach**

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1. Self-reflection

Self-reflection using video is a powerful tool for professional development. By watching and assessing yourself on video, you can recognise areas of improvement, address behavioural challenges and pinpoint what works and doesn't work in the classroom.

Developing self-awareness through self-reflection positively impacts emotional intelligence, empathy, listening skills, critical-thinking skills, decision-making, communication and leadership.

Self-reflection over video provides the evidence you need to address your current challenges, get help when needed and build the competency required to avoid these challenges in the future.

How to get started with video self-reflection

Creating clarity and setting your intentions before even pressing the record button is essential. Identify your 'look-fors' when reviewing yourself on video.

Rachel Robinson, a Year 2 teacher at the Inaburra School in Bangor, NSW, wanted to increase the effectiveness of her teaching practice with video tools. Rachel had two areas she wanted to assess when she started filming her lessons.

"Firstly, I wanted to analyse my practice. I wanted to look at the ratio of teacher talk to student talk," Rachel says. "I also wanted to really look at what my questions were. I wanted to make sure I was asking not just surface-level questions but nice deep ones."

Work to a process

- **Set a goal.** Start with a small goal each week. As you become more confident with video self-evaluation, you can increase the number of weekly goals you set.
- **Reflect.** After watching yourself on video, make a list of what went well and what you'll need to work on in the future to realise your goal or embark on a new one.
- **Ask for feedback.** When you're ready, consider sharing your video with a colleague or mentor to gain deeper insight into how you can improve your teaching practice.

This simple process will allow you to incorporate self-reflection over video into your weekly schedule seamlessly.

Overcoming the challenges

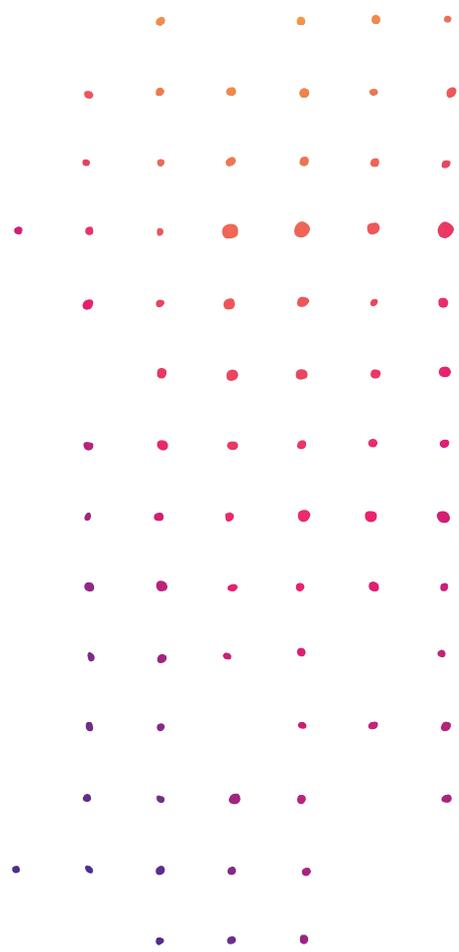
It can be daunting to start watching and reviewing yourself on video. You might feel anxious about recording yourself. However, a process or plan will help you to overcome the challenges and know what to do with the videos once they're recorded.

Rachel admits that initially, it was hard to watch herself on video.

"I had a vision of what I looked and sounded like," Rachel shares. "But I think because I viewed my videos by myself first, I felt comfortable."

Rachel started by watching the same video several times, evaluating various elements of the lesson, such as student engagement, clarity and student feedback. It allowed her to become comfortable with video self-reflection, and she insists the benefits far outweigh the downfalls.

"It's beneficial to use it as a snapshot of what my practice was like then and what it is now," Rachel says.



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2. Peer and mentor coaching

Once you become comfortable evaluating yourself with video, the next step is to ask a peer or mentor to assess your teaching practice. Peer and mentor coaching over video is an incredibly impactful way to overcome challenges you face in the classroom. It allows you to improve your teaching practice and enjoy a collaborative approach to professional development. The creation of a focal point for collaboration and shared growth accelerates the momentum of change.

Traditionally, teachers were evaluated by an administrator who reviewed a lesson in person. This practice can be disruptive because it creates an unnatural environment that impacts teachers' and students' behaviour. It doesn't accurately reflect the classroom environment or the teacher's abilities to engage with the class.

Video coaching will help improve your teaching methods, build relationships with students and support you throughout the process. By building strong and trusting relationships with your peers or a mentor, you can use that relationship as a model of what to make with each student in your class.

How to build a platform for coaching success

Creating an open dialogue with your peers and mentors about their observations from watching your videos makes it easier for you to set goals and track your progress over time.

But let's face it; your workload is overflowing. You don't have time to communicate regularly with your colleagues about what you want to improve in your teaching practice. By sharing video capture of yourself in the classroom, you can generate efficient and actionable feedback from trusted sources.

Like self-evaluation over video, setting goals and intentions are essential when asking peers for feedback. A single lesson can be evaluated through various lenses, and it's vital that you specify what you'd like them to focus on. Here are some questions to consider:

- Are you asking students sufficient questions?
- How are you encouraging dialogue in your classroom?
- When students respond to questions, do you listen effectively to them?
- What methods are you using to capture the students' attention?
- Do you use the students' names?

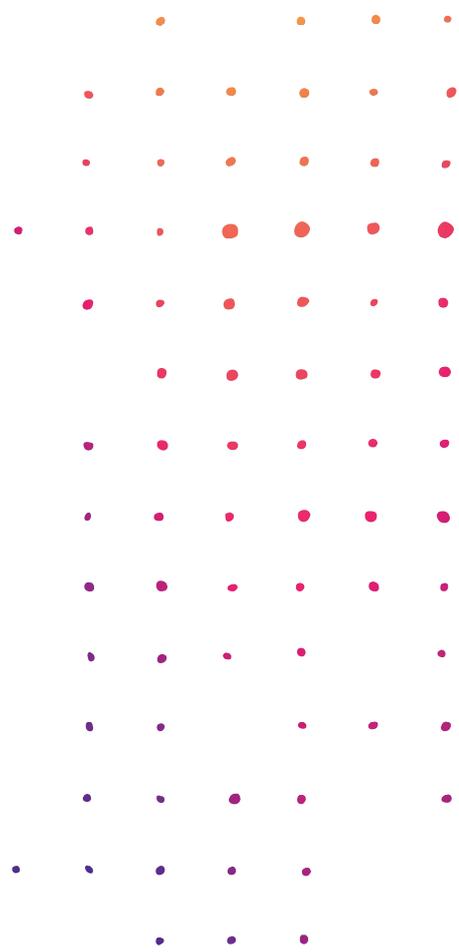
Seeking feedback

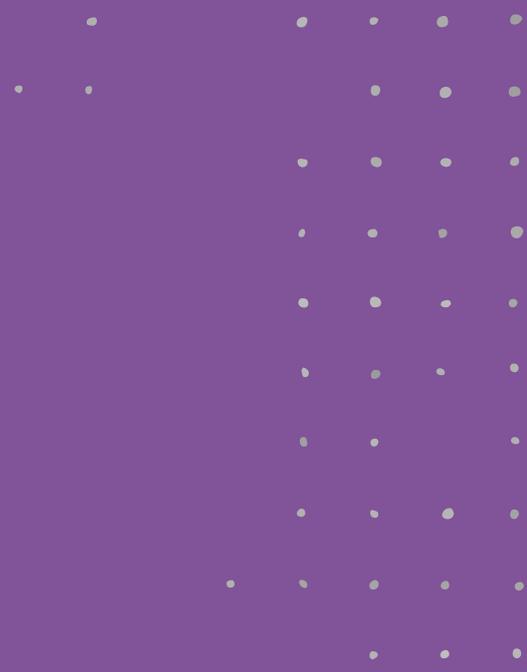
Classroom observations should have clear intentions. The first step is to define what you seek to observe for yourself and your feedback partners. Essential questions to ask yourself are:

- What do you hope to accomplish in this video?
- Does the footage you record allow you an opportunity to achieve your intention?
- Where do you want your viewers to focus so they can reflect, question, and comment throughout your video?

It's essential to be very specific when considering these questions. Watch your video footage uninterrupted before defining your intention, so you can ensure it is relevant.

Ideally, this will prompt your peer or mentor to provide meaningful feedback on every observable teaching practice you demonstrate throughout the video.

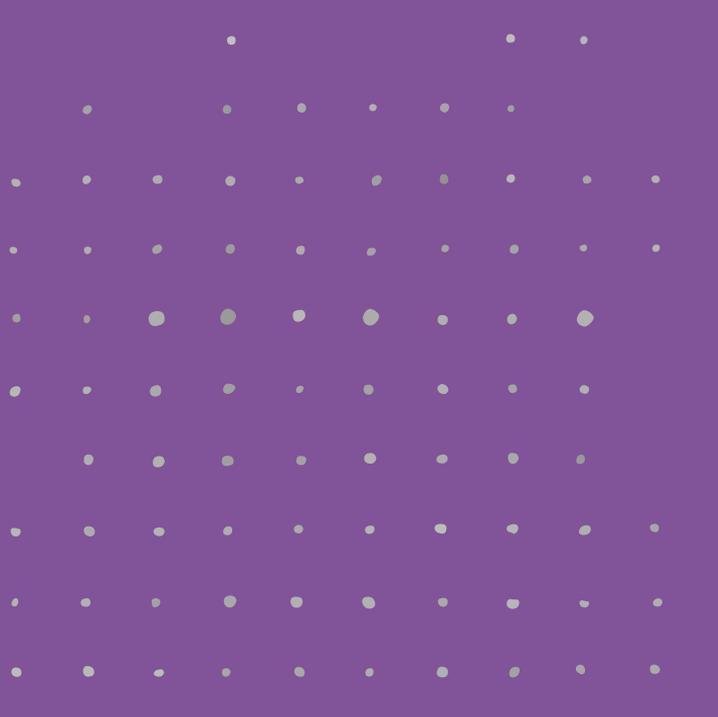




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3. Hybrid and online learning

Video learning is front and centre in today's modern classroom. There is an ongoing expectation that all lessons are live-streamed and recorded.

Monash University recently conducted a survey - ['The Impact of COVID-19 on Perceptions of Australian Schooling'](#). 76.9% of the Australian educators surveyed (from a total of 2,444 respondents) supported a hybrid or more flexible approach to schooling. Increased engagement and increased confidence were also attributed to a hybrid classroom.

Practical techniques for a successful hybrid classroom

Here are five practical teaching techniques for using video tools in a blended classroom environment.

- **Remote Attendance** is invaluable for students who cannot attend due to illness or travel. It helps them learn and absorb learning concepts through engaging and collaborating with teachers and peers, even if they can't physically attend.
- **Communication with parents.** Encourage more parent involvement by running virtual meetings and updates. This practice allows them to play a more active role in their child's education and clarify any questions they may have.
- **Comprehensive lesson library** allows students to look back at lessons to clarify concepts and review and reflect on various topics, whether at home or school.
- **Enhance accessibility in the classroom** by using video to open a world of opportunities for students with reading-based learning disabilities. Features such as closed captioning can benefit visual learners or students with hearing loss.
- **Weekly virtual office hours** recognises that the connection between home and the school relies on meaningful communication. Using video, you can specify regular virtual office hours each week where students can meet with you, ask questions and discuss challenges.

Meet Swivl

A video solution designed exclusively for educators

Now that you're ready to start transforming your teaching practice with video observation, it's time to find a plug-and-play video solution that's simple to learn, easy to operate and causes minimal distraction among students.

Swivl helps educators develop ways to improve their teaching practice and student outcomes.



Swivl's Reflectivity + Robot are secure and easy solutions for teachers to live stream and record video for coaching, video-based self reflection, hybrid learning, and more.

Whether you want to enhance your hybrid classroom, master teacher self-evaluation or start your journey of peer and mentor coaching, Swivl will help you find your purpose and focus on the joy of teaching.

[Learn More](#)

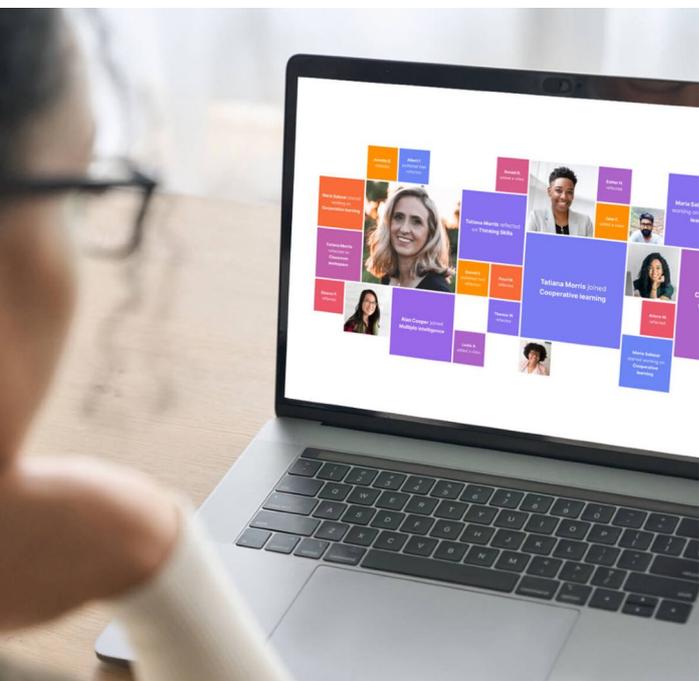
Swivl Robot

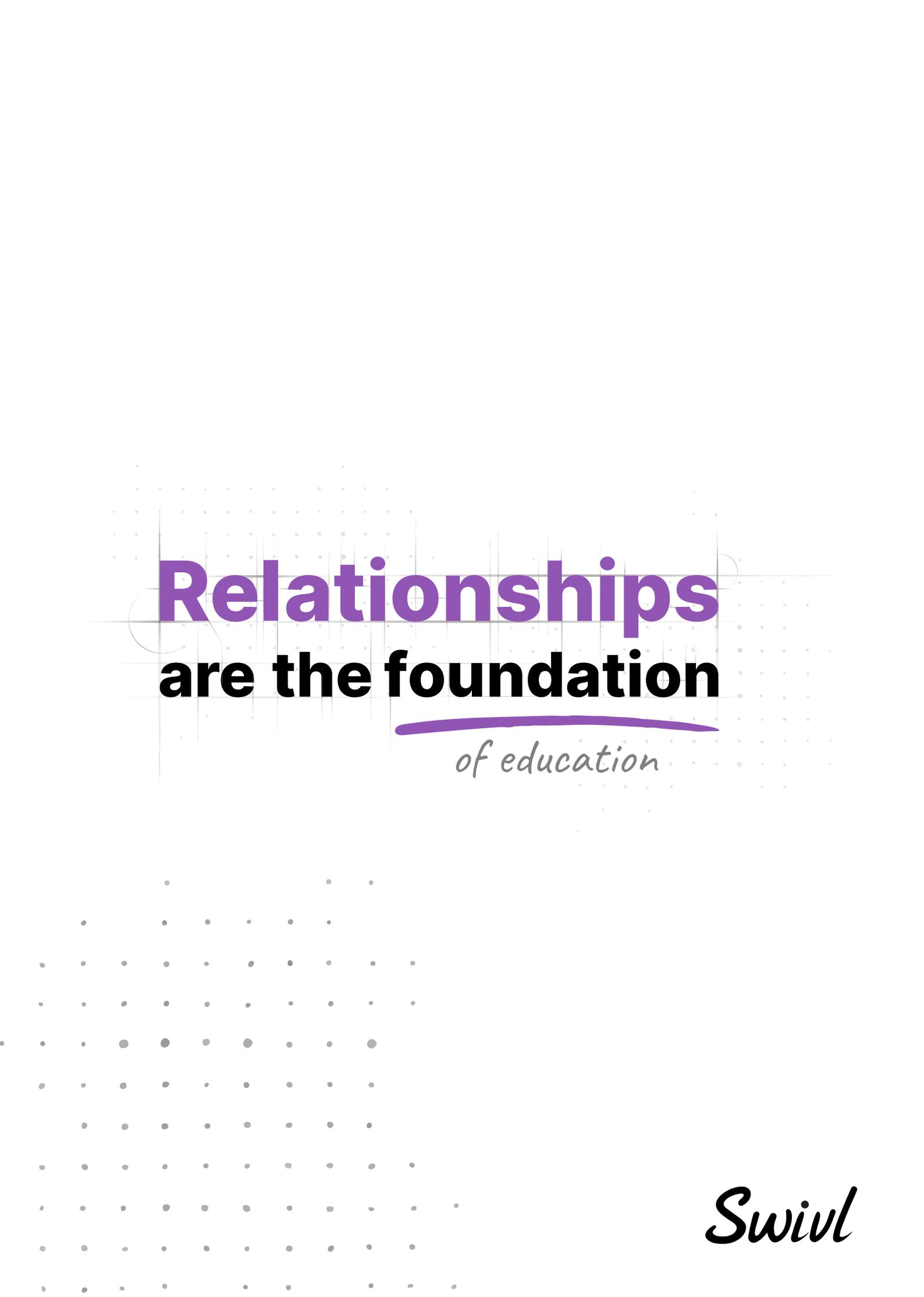
- Automatically tracks an educator wearing a Marker as they walk around the classroom
- Save key moments to revisit later using the Marker - in real-time
- Record up to five independent audio tracks to clearly hear what's happening around the classroom
- Makes recording and education-based live streaming classroom and school events easy (via Zoom, MS Teams, Google Meet)
- Record from up to five video sources for a holistic classroom view.



Reflectivity

- Feel the excitement around Topics by viewing the real-time dynamic displays of the New and Popular Reflectivity Boards
- Gain clarity by adding Topics that represent where you'd like to focus your energy. Use existing Topics from the Reflectivity Boards or create your own
- When deeper reflection is needed, upload video evidence, and standards from a rubric, or use pre-built templates for evaluations
- Visit the Administrator Dashboard to gain organisational insights to make more effective resource decisions.

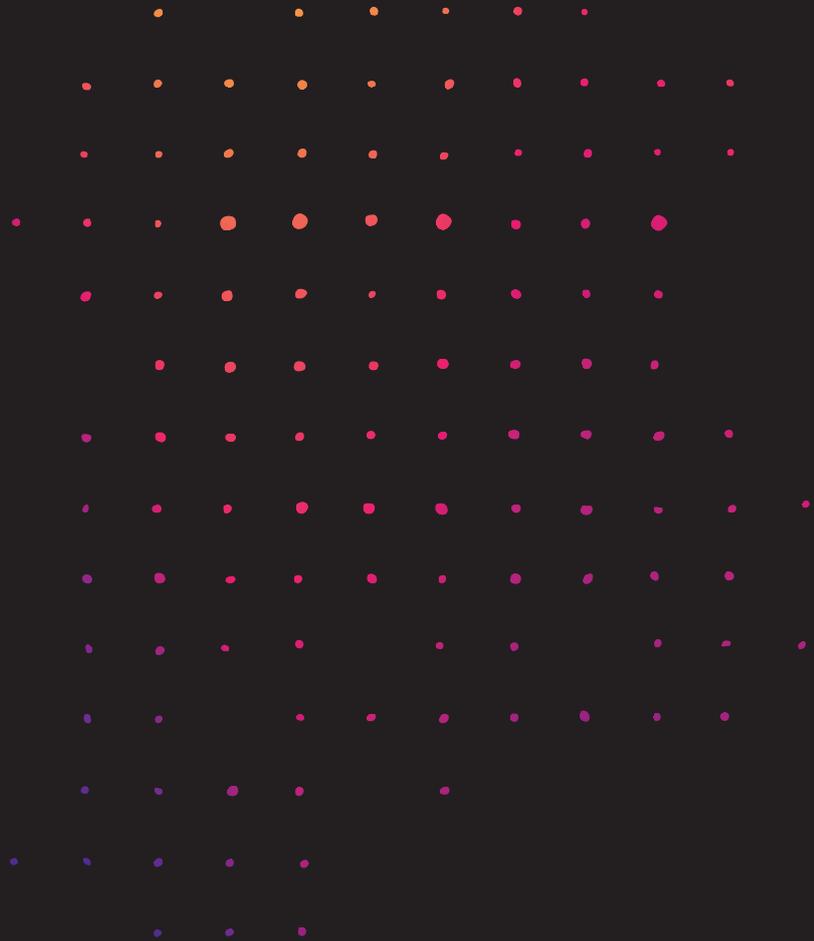




Relationships
are the foundation

of education

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