

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

Module(s): 3 (Integrating Skills)
Date submitted: October 04, 2006

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Project Reviewer: Mohammed Abbas

Give information for:

- Students' age(s): 16
- # of students: 25

- Language level: Intermediate
- Other (optional): Secondary level

My Class Now (Snapshot)

Provide a description of the item in your classroom that you are targeting for change:

When asked to present projects, my students use little resources and usually copy information. They always present (written) work with little effort.

Technique(s) I use *now*.

- My students depend on class projects which are simple and small.
- My students work individually and mostly copy information.
- Students are mostly using little resources and mainly using individual skill (writing)
- My students use language in class only, and with a small number of learners.

My Class in the Future (Vision)

Provide a description of what you expect the item to look like after you've made the change:

I expect my students to use multimedia (internet, video, sound, CDs ..etc) and use new techniques (questionnaires, surveys, interviews...etc) to present long projects of high quality in all (the skills).

Technique(s) from this module that I *will* use.

- I want my students to get involved in online projects which are more complicated and big.
- My students will work in groups with international students in schools from all over the world.
- I expect my students will use all skills in their projects (reading, writing, listening, speaking).
- I expect my students to use language in/out of classroom.

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Material(s) I use *now*.

- My students use classroom textbooks
- My students depend on encyclopedias for copying information.
- My students use materials that are related to limited themes/topics.
- My students use little resources from library such as newspapers and magazines.
- My students usually present their projects in printed form(copied from other resources)

Material(s) or ideas from this module that I *will* use.

- I will use computers with internet access to search and find information.
- My students will depend on other tools for getting information such as: surveys/ interviews /websites/ online forums
- My students will use materials of various themes/multiple topics not only restricted to textbooks.
- My students will use multimedia tools to find and edit information to use for their projects like: video/ TV/ educational websites/cross-cultural communication.
- I expect my students to present their projects in other forms like: PowerPoint presentations / booklets/ workshops/ wall charts/ sketches... etc

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Additional Explanation from Project Creator

In “My Class in the Future(Vision) you described and predicted a change that you would like to see happen in your class. Provide additional information for the following related items. Write as though you are informing a person who knows nothing at all about your educational setting.

1. **The benefits I predict from this change:**

Get students involved in more active projects that will support the integrated-skill approach. It will expose students to authentic language and let them interact /communicate naturally with a wider circle of learners.

2. **Challenges I expect:**

Not all students are ready to use websites. Some students need more training to master the skills of searching/ questioning/ conducting surveys and other communicative tools.

3. **How I will address those challenges:**

Conduct workshops and training sessions to help students work easily. Monitor students and provide help and advice.

4. **Steps needed in order to complete the change:**

- * Ask school administration to provide materials(computers with internet access).
- * Work with students to overcome difficulties.
- * Follow up and assess progress.
- * Reflect and get feedback.

5. **Timeline for completing the change:**

During the whole academic year (Sept 2006 – June 2007)

6. **How I will assess the degree of success of the change:**

- * Monitor Students' performance.
- * Help and evaluate students' work to make sure all students reached the final goals of the project(s).
- * Make sure all students fulfilled the requirements of the project (using checklist).
- * check and evaluate the final product (website/magazine/booklet ...etc)
- * Students take turns in presenting their projects (in classes, the English club or the school hall)

7. **Other comments:**

Students can work with any online website the offer projects. They can work together and share others information and resources. Here is a list of websites for students:

1. <http://www.learn.org>
2. <http://www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/>

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3. <http://www.pen-pal.com/student>
4. <http://www.epals.com>
5. <http://www.jasonproject.org/>
6. <http://www.student-forums.co.uk>
7. <http://www.friendshipthrougheducation.org/>
8. <http://www.ptpi.org/>

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Project Reviewer Comments

Thanks Mohammed for your comments and notes. I made some modifications to the plan and I answered your questions and added more information for your notes. (They are in red)

1. Is the proposed change clear (the snapshot of “My Class Now” vs. a vision for “My Class in the Future”)?
You need to provide a short statement for both current "Now" and "Future" vision, before the list you provided of the techniques.
(I've added them.)
2. Do the steps and the amount of time allotted for the change seem realistic?
Yes. Carrying out the project over two semesters will give you enough time to evaluate it and to gain valuable feedback, on what is going well, what needs modification, etc.
3. What do you believe to be the strengths of the proposed change?
To get students use the ICT facilities is one of the lifelong learning tools for students. Also, the proposed project goes very well with the future directions of the teaching and learning in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
4. Do you perceive any additional challenges and/or have additional advice for meeting challenges related to the proposed change?
I would think that not all students will have the access to the ICT facilities, at their homes. Also, some students might be very reluctant to use such facilities. You also need to bring the other stakeholders, especially school administration, students' parents on board, by informing them of the nature of the project and by highlighting its benefits.
As I stated in the plan, I will be having training sessions and workshops to get students familiar with using multimedia and internet applications. Also, I talked about cooperating with the school administration. For parents, we send them a sheet of paper to explain the projects and how they are prepared and presented.
5. Does the type of assessment match the goals and outcomes of the proposed change?
It is not clear how students are going to be assessed. I think it needs to be spelt out.
Follow the steps I provided in the template which I think are enough for assessment.

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6. Other comments or questions?

There are a number of questions that you need to address. These are as follows:

- Have you explained the idea to the school administration?
 - **Yes, I have. They already know and they support me in doing so.**
- Do you have all the needed facilities at school?
 - **Yes, I do. I have arranged – with the school administration – to use one of the many computer labs in our school.**
- Do you have the time to work with students in such project?
 - **Yes, as a senior teacher, I have only 5 lessons a week and I think I can have much time to work with my students.**
- Do your students have the extra time needed to work on such project?
 - **Yes, there are extra periods I can use to work with my students. Besides, some work will be done at home.**
- How are you going to evaluate the success or failure of such project?
 - **Refer to the plan to find the steps of assessment I will follow to evaluate the students performances.**
- What do you intend to do with the feedback gathered from the project?
 - **It will be used to assess and evaluate the students’ work. Also, I it will help me for a better arrangement and preparation for the upcoming projects. That’s to concentrate on the positives and work hard to overcome the difficulties.**