

## Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

**Module(s):** Modules 9 (Critical Thinking Skills) & 3 (Integrating Skills)

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**Project Creator:** Qadriya Saleh

**Project Reviewer:** Khadija Al-Hayki

### Give information for:

- Students' age(s): 7-8-9-10-11
- # of students: 33 to 35 in each class

- Language level: low and primary level
- Other (optional): # of classes: 4

### My Class Now (Snapshot)

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

- Most of the posters, flashcards and word cards are printed and ready made.
- I print the classroom rules and display them on the board.
- My students sit on the carpet during the storytelling only.
- My students sit in groups during the lesson and they move when we have games and songs only.

-The English language corner is not enough to display the students' works.

### Technique(s) I use *now*.

- I often play games with my students.
- Depending on the time of the lesson I can't cover the four primary skills.
- When acting out a story or any skits I ask few students to act out and the others are only audience.

### My Class in the Future (Vision)

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

- My students will design and decorate the English corner by themselves.
- My students will participate and help me writing the new vocabulary words and the classroom rules and display them on the wall.
- I will ask my students to sit on the carpet when we have songs, drama, discussions or when doing other activities.
- I will display the students' works on the corridors and any other suitable places at school.

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

- I will play games in every lesson.
- I will cover the four primary skills. Example: The students write then read while the others are listening. Then I will ask question so the students answer.((integrating the four skills))
- I will ask all my students to participate in the skits and give each of them a role. ((The wind, the rain, the birds.....etc))
- I will use the thinking hats when acting out or when playing games.

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### **Material(s)** I use *now*.

- Text books/magazines/pencils and papers/whiteboard markers/
- Cassette recorder/computer/
- Real objects/props/tangible items/

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

- Students' created photos using their own cameras.
- A computer with internet access.
- Library books as much as possible.

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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.

Firstly, I teach four classes with two different curriculums. The first group is between 7 to 8 –year- olds. The other group is between 10 to 11. Each class has more than 30 students. According to the changes that I would like to see happen in my classes, my students are going to be more involved and active during the English language lesson. I will have the opportunity to use new techniques applying different activities and skills.

Any changes will parallel challenges. The challenges I expect may rely on three factors. The time needed for the preparations, the financial supply, and the other teachers cooperation.(teachers of other subjects who share the same classroom).

In my opinion, it's possible to manage the time as I'm going to work hard preparing my lessons and my activities during the free time and the break. On the other hand is the financial supply. In my country English language has the (lion's share) of the educational improvement. Therefore, I don't have to worry about how much I need to get things for my classes. At my school there is a good budget just for English language needs. The last challenge is my colleagues, who should be convinced of the new changes and who should help me building the students awareness of the language.

The steps I need in order to complete the changes are:

- I will adapt the changes.
- I will start with the easiest to the most complicated.
- I will evaluate the changes and improve them.

In fact I will have the changes in a short time because all the requirements are available. I already have started some of the changes and I haven't faced any difficulty applying them. Regarding the access to the internet, I will take my students to the school library until we have our classes connected to the internet. Moreover, the time I adapted the thinking hats technique and how would I use it with my young learners, I made the hats and I'm using them now successfully.

Finally, in my opinion, the degree of success of the changes will be clearly appear on the success of my students.

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### Project Reviewer Comments

Dearest Qadriya,

You have done a great job. Bravo! The changes that you wanted to see in your classes seem to be realistic and achievable. The enthusiasm and the determination of you as a teacher is the main strength in your project. You have an open mind and heart for new ideas and you seem to be aware of how more demanding your job might get, yet you are still willing to go for it.

However, I am not sure that you were clear about the time needed for these changes to take place. Moreover, I feel that I need further clarification regarding some points. I was not sure who your targeted audience for certain steps in your project was. I do know that you would like to apply the changes that you talked about to both grades that you teach, that is why I feel it is necessary to consider the situation for each age group. You surely know that different grades have different learning characteristics and needs. My advice to you is to be more specific and think of all the nitty gritty details.

Regarding using the computer and the internet, have you thought of a plan or a system for that? Having 33 students and one computer to look at is certainly not what you are looking for. So you can do one of these things:

1. If you have a data projector, you can project the site you are working on so that everyone can see. However, even then you have to think of how you want your students to take part in such activity:

- Individually?
- In groups?
- As a whole class?

2. You can have the computer and internet activity as one of your learning centres, Provided that you are allowed to use the resource centre room that day. Think of:

- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Materials needed and where to keep them
- ✓ Centres rotation
- ✓ Time needed

The same idea applies for integrating skills in your lesson. I personally believe that the integration is there and you are doing it. For example: listening through songs and stories, speaking through repeating songs and retelling stories and

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participating in class discussions. Reading: through sight reading activities when you teach words that go with the alphabet and other high frequency words. And finally writing: through the teaching of basic mechanics of writing i.e copying, tracing, and letters formation. Just make sure that the transmission of each stage of the lesson is going smoothly.

Your idea of involving everyone is great. You are right a class where everybody has a small role is far better than one with a group of 5 active participants and 28 passive audiences.

As far as assessment is concerned, I think you might need to rethink of this

" The degree of success of the changes will be clearly appear on the success of my students"

In other words, think of more practical ways to measure the degree of the success that you are aiming for. i.e list your expectations, and think clearly of them. And by the end of the time set for your project look back at this checklist and reflect on how much you have achieved.

To conclude, your project is great and it reflects good understanding of the modules we did so far. Good luck Qadriya.

Regards,  
Khadija

### Post-Review Comments from Qadriya

Thank you, Khadija, for the golden comments.

First, I teach two different levels, the second and the fifth grades. I will apply the changes with the two groups depending on their learning process and abilities. Example:

I used the thinking hats the last week with my fifth grade students when we were playing the chain spelling game . While I used them with my younger group when they were acting out a story.

Regarding using the computer and the internet as you mentioned, the computer will be one of my learning centres, and the internet will be at the resource room.

On the other hand, I should thank you Khadija because you made me rethink of the degree of success of the changes. I will measure it as follow:

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- ❖ Are my students involved in the changes?
- ❖ Are the changes acceptable by the school administration and the other teachers?
- ❖ Am I capable enough to organize my lessons and time within the changes?
- ❖ Are my students achieving the aims of my changes?

Thanks,  
Qadriya