

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

Module(s): 4 (Pair and Group Work)
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Project Reviewer: Mohammed Hassim, Morocco

Give information for:

- Students' age(s): 15-16
- # of students: 38

- Language level: Beginning 2
- Other (optional):

My Class Now (Snapshot)

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

Technique(s) I use *now*.

- Teacher-student interaction

Material(s) I use *now*.

- The textbook mainly

My Class in the Future (Vision)

Provide a description of what you expect the item to look like after you've made the change: have teachers reduce talking time and maximizing student-student interaction

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

- Pair and group work

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

- Games
- Authentic materials (articles, brochures, maps, 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:

Make teacher’s job less tiring, involve more learners, provide more opportunities for meaningful practice.

2. Challenges I expect:

Maybe the teacher may resist at first, or may go back to old practices (T-S) after a while.

3. How I will address those challenges:

Sit with teacher, discuss rationale behind the action.

4. Steps needed in order to complete the change:

Steps 1 & 2 in item 4 above, plus design a checklist/observation grid for the purpose.

5. Timeline for completing the change:

About 3 weeks, at an average of 3 class periods (50 minutes each) a week.

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

Through post-lesson chats with the teacher, discussing improvement if any through the tools (in item 4 above) used.

7. Other comments:

The textbooks and curricula used do actually call for group work. But some teachers do not usually make use of that unless the teacher’s manual recommends it.

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Project Reviewer Comments

1. Is the proposed change clear (the snapshot of “My Class Now” vs. a vision for “My Class in the Future”)?
Yes.
2. Do the steps and the amount of time allotted for the change seem realistic?
Yes.
3. What do you believe to be the strengths of the proposed change?
 - Promoting student-student interaction through pair and group work.
 - Reducing teacher talk which is a real problem to many teachers.
 - Using motivating (games) and authentic materials.
4. Do you perceive any additional challenges and/or have additional advice for meeting challenges related to the proposed change?
 - Some problems of behavior and classroom management may occur
 - Students should be trained on certain routines and self-management when working in pairs or groups (Module 6).
5. Does the type of assessment match the goals and outcomes of the proposed change?
 - Yes.
 - You may possibly have another teacher observe the class with you to have a richer discussion.
6. Other comments or questions?
I think the topic of this project is well chosen because it deals with some recurrent problems in our Moroccan classrooms (high teacher talk, very little student-student interaction, crowded classes and difficulty of conducting group work).