

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

**Module(s):** 08 Authentic Materials  
**Date submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Creator:** Qadriya Saleh  
**Project Reviewer:** Khadija Al Hayki

### Give information for:

- Students' age(s): 10-11 year-olds
- # of students: 35

- Language level: Primary level
- Other (optional):

### My Class Now (Snapshot)

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

In my 5<sup>th</sup> grade class students are learning (English Together) course. The course book concentrates on the four primary skills. In my opinion, teachers should go through some irrelevant activities in order to cover each unit of the book. Sometimes my students feel bored and want to quit work.

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

- When we have writing or speaking activity, I ask my students to cut out pictures from magazines to describe them or write about them.
- I sometimes bring materials and objects ((realia)) for the classroom theatre.
- I always obey the administrators to run over the curriculum before the final exams.

### 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'd like to minimize the dependency on the text book and achieve the goals of the course using different authentic materials and tasks. I'd like to see my students more involved and interested in the lesson.

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

- I will ask my students to bring topics from magazines and news papers and use them instead of the topics of the book.
- My students will collect topics from the internet and will be trained them to use the internet for learning English.
- I will use my students' writings and drawings.
- I will motivate my students to create materials (puppets, tiny books...etc.).
- I will help my students to build up projects and practice searching information.

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

- Text book/ cassette recorder/ F/C.
- Pictures from magazines.
- Posters/ maps/ toys.

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

- Students' materials (Puppets/drawings/projects).
- News papers /brochures/catalogues.
- Poems /students' favourite songs.
- Computers with internet access.

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### Additional Explanation from Project Creator:

My young students have a strong desire of learning and speaking English. Therefore the primary changes that I will use will affect on their involvement and encouragement positively. They will find it more enjoyable to use materials that are not from the text book. Materials related to the language they are learning. They will practice holding a newspaper or a book in English trying to read it or describe it. They will show others how much they are familiar with English.

Using authentic materials and tasks in classroom would be a welcome idea at my school. My students will have the opportunity to learn English through different approaches In addition to the text book. I may face some difficulties in order to convince my administrators of some points related to the text book. Therefore I will create a plan that shows how the aims and requirements of the course will be achieved within the changes.

The changes need a period of time to be well planned and prepared. I will try to apply the changes at any time I get ready with the new materials.

The steps for completing the changes are as follow:

- Preparation
- Students involvement (motivating them to produce materials)
- Building language awareness (using assessments , self assessments and surveys).
- Collect materials (magazines / newspaper / brochures / students projects).

To sum up, through using continuous assessments for me as a teacher and for my students and as long as my students achieve the aims and goals of the course I will be sure that my changes are successfully done.

Thank you,  
Qadriya

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### Project Reviewer Comments

Dearest Qadriya,

Once again another great project, well done. I'm really impressed by the enthusiasm you possess for developing your teaching and learning environment.

The message that the directorate of curricula is still striving to convey to teachers is that they are to teach the students and not the books. Moreover, the course books are to be regarded as a resource and not a source. At the beginning of the school year, teachers are provided with course books and a set of language competencies and 'can do' statements. Course books are chosen by a committee of teachers, curricula specialist and advisors. However, different schools and different classes have different needs. That is why teachers have the right to choose any other extra materials to supplement the course book, provided that the materials chosen are culturally appropriate and suitable for the students' age and interest. Teachers' efforts and teaching should be geared towards helping students achieve the aims and objectives set for their grade level and not going through activities in the course books from cover to cover. At the end of the school year our concern as educators is to make sure that students did achieve the aims of the level they belong to and not that they have covered all the activities in a course book. So, relax Qadriya, you don't have to do all the activities in the book. :)

Your idea of involving students in a more relevant and interesting learning experience through the use of authentic materials will surely bring in the fun and enjoyment to your classes. It might be an idea to start by looking at the themes of every unit in the course book and marry it to an idea where you can use authentic materials. Prepare a chart like this...

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<b>unit</b>	<b>theme</b>	<b>Authentic materials</b>	<b>procedures</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1	Summer Holidays	Tourist brochures Pictures of students' holidays	Students' choose a destination for their next holidays and write about things they need to take, activities they can do there etc.. Students bring in pictures of their last holidays and talk/write about it.	

This will help you get the materials you need for the whole year and prepare them in advance.

It is really interesting working with you, Qadriya. Good luck!

Regards,  
Khadija