

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

Module(s): 8, Authentic Materials
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Project Creator: Rima Ambartsumyan
Project Reviewer: Yayra Abduraimova

Give information for:

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

- Language level: Post-intermediate
- Other (optional):

My Class Now (Snapshot)

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

I present the topic: Authentic Materials and Cultural Content.

Usually I present the project and work on some tasks. First my students make their own plans, discuss them in groups, and then make presentations they use authentic materials.

After the presentation they answer the questions.

Technique(s) I use *now*.

- Discussion.
- Role play.
- Questions.

My Class in the Future (Vision)

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

This time I will try out a project on Tour Guide. My students will collect a lot of Authentic Materials with different sections: geography, history, economy, historical places, customs and traditions, legends and national food (recipes), songs, dances (with costumes).

At the end of the project there will be an album about Uzbekistan. This tour guide (album) will be continued by other future students and be kept in the students' library. In the Album there will be students' photos participating in different activities.

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

- Talks.
- Discussions.
- Role play/ dramatization.
- Projects.
- Students' presentations.
- Group work.
- Questions/ answers.
- Students' feedback.

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Material(s) I use *now*.

- Books.
- Pictures.
- Posters.

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

- Pictures.
- Different texts.
- Internet.
- Magazines.
- Newspapers.
- Legends.
- Advertisements.
- Cooking recipes.
- Culture capsules.
- Outside world.
- Culture quizzes / tests.
- Wedding costumes.

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 the change.

My students will be motivated and actively engaged. They’ll use real language and interact with it. The whole class will be participated in making this album. It is collected for students and foreign visitors. It will stay in the library where people can read them. The students will know, value, respect their own culture. They are very interested in collecting materials. The authentic materials are beneficial to the language learning process.

2. Challenges I expect:

The authentic materials often contain difficult language, unneeded vocabulary items and complex language contexts. The students can feel de-motivated and frustrated.

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3. How I will address those challenges:
I'll help learners feel better by involving them in the 'real language and provide them with pedagogical support. Then I'll give the learner a wide range of choices, encourage students to read for pleasure. I will work with difficult words, trying to find synonyms, simplify the difficult texts. Then I'll use audio-visual materials, aiding students' comprehension. Materials such as popular and traditional songs will help to create a non – threatening environment. Students own culture should be discussed together with target culture with meaningful and communicative tasks and activities.
4. Steps needed in order to complete the change:
 1. To collect pictures.
 2. Materials.
 3. Articles.
 4. Cultural items.
 5. Making a plan.
 6. Preparing a draft.
 7. Presentation.
 8. Questions/answers.
 9. Students' journal (where students write about their impressions).
 10. Product (an album).
 11. Practical work (a tour along the city: a guide and tourists).
5. Timeline for completing the change: Three months.
6. How I will assess the degree of success of the change.
 - Public speaking.
 - Working in groups.
 - Project (authenticity), steps of presentation.
 - Original ideas.
 - Role play (guide and tourists).
 - Creativity (the product, group projects, using authentic materials).
 - Asking questions and answers.
 - Students' feedback.

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Project Reviewer Comments (Yayra Abduraimova)

Face to face meeting, discussion and making some changes.

1. Is the proposal change clear (the snapshot of “My Class Now” vs. a vision for “My Class in the Future”)?
The proposal on “Creating a Tour Guide” is presented clearly. Rima clarified the changes in her class after applying this project to her class. It is very interesting that she includes additional sections to a Tour Guide such as: history, economy, geography, customs, etc. It is a good idea to keep this tour guide in student’s library.
2. Do the steps and the amount of time allotted for the change seem realistic?
This project has steps and these steps are completed in three months.
3. What do you believe to be the strengths of the proposed change?
All participants will have fun and learn new information from each other. This is a good authentic material even for teachers for their lessons.
4. Do you perceive any additional challenging and/ or have additional advice for meeting challenging related to the proposed change?
Actually the ideas, techniques, materials and steps are presented clearly and with details. I wish success in completing this Tour guide effectively.
5. Does the type of assessment match the goals and outcomes of the proposed change?
The goals and outcomes match the proposed change. She showed how she raises students’ interests, how she would involve them in learning process, and of course how she would teach them culture content, how to respect, value and understand.
6. Other comments and questions.
Will you take this tour guide to Egypt?

Rima’s response: Sure I will bring it to show and share.