

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

Module(s): 08 – Authentic Materials
Date submitted: _____

Project Creator: Ali Sulail
Project Reviewer: Mohammed Abbas Ali

Give information for:

- Students' age(s): 16 – 17
- # of students: 25

- Language level: Pre-intermediate
- Other (optional): Secondary level

My Class Now (Snapshot)

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

My students use simple / basic authentic materials. They need more examples and different kinds of materials to make learning more interesting/motivating and more efficient.

Technique(s) I use *now*.

- My students use materials in classroom for limited purposes (classroom tasks).
- Students depend mainly on the teacher to get resources and/or respond to his instructions.
- Learning is teacher-centered.

Material(s) I use *now*.

- Language textbooks.
- Cassettes.
- Simple printed texts and pictures.

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 various authentic materials in the English Club (EC). It will provide a mixture of authentic materials for all students at all levels and make a change in learning.

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

- My students will use materials in the classroom and in the English Club for multiple purposes (classroom tasks/self-learning/pleasure).
- Students are free to choose materials that suit their level and needs.
- Learning is student-centered.

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

- Printed texts (books/newspapers/brochures/booklets/stories/magazines).
- Multimedia materials (audio tapes/video tapes/CDs/DVDs/computer-based programs/internet/data show/screen).
- Realia (objects/tools/clothing).
- Images (photographs/posters).

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

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:
 - It will give students a chance to choose from different materials to fit their needs.
 - It will make learning more interesting and motivating.
 - It will provide use of real language.
 - It will illustrate accurate use of language in the target culture.
 - It will help students get as much information as they can from material they don't quite understand.

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

2. Challenges I expect:

It will take some time to get all the target authentic materials available in the English Club.
Some materials will need to be funded and school administration may not provide the sufficient finance.
Some materials (multimedia) will need some training to get students used to them.

3. How I will address those challenges:

My department staff will work in groups and will divide effort/work to provide materials.
We will ask some local companies/establishment (donors) for some materials/finance.
We will help students use multimedia materials by having some training sessions/classes.

4. Steps needed in order to complete the change:

Set a work plan for the project (The English Club).

Divide the authentic materials into sections:

A- Multimedia Section:

- Provide a laptop, some computers, a data show and a screen (already available).
- Provide CDs/DVDs and other computer-based programs.
- Provide a guide for internet usage which provides educational websites (already available).

B- Graded Reading Section:

Provide (short) stories/ in different levels as follow:

- Easy
- Pre-intermediate
- Intermediate
- Upper-intermediate
- Advanced

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

C- Video Section:

Provide video cassettes on different themes/topics related to the textbooks and the learning titles.

Video Cassettes include:

- (Famous) films
- Documentaries
- Explanatory T.V programs
- Educational/academic programs

D- Realia/ printed Texts Sections :

Provide various objects/printed texts to illustrate learning and help students manage learning; like:

Clothing/ maps/ posters/ pictures/ brochures/ booklets/ newspapers/ magazines/ photographs/ tools.

5. Timeline for completing the change:

In two years time. This academic year 2006/2007 and the coming academic year 2007/2008.

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

A record book will be kept in the English Club (EC) to register materials to track change and progress.

A checklist will be used by all groups to monitor materials existence/availability.

A register book for students' (borrowing/using) – to see how often students use materials.

A survey will be conducted to find out how students benefit from the materials in the English Club.

7. Other comments:

The English Club was opened at our school last semester. We are in the process of developing it and providing authentic materials for the students. We have already gathered some materials and the rest will be available in the proposed period.

I expect the English Club will be so useful to all students and will help them to find educational materials to make learning English much easier.

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

Project Reviewer Comments

Thanks Mohammed for your comments, I have some additional explanations, also (they're in red).

1. Is the proposed change clear (the snapshot of “My Class Now” vs. a vision for “My Class in the Future”)?

It is quite clear. However, I think at (the my class now), you don't need to explain that students need more examples of authentic materials. As this is need to be emphasized in the future vision section. So, I suggest that you transfer it to the future vision section.

I wrote it there as to describe the "difficulty" we have now and give an idea about the proposed change.

2. Do the steps and the amount of time allotted for the change seem realistic?

The allotted amount of time seems very realistic, as it will run over the period of 2 academic year.

3. What do you believe to be the strengths of the proposed change?

Besides the assigned textbook, students will have the opportunities to use language (English) in more authentic way. As explained there will be different levels that tackle the different language skills. This means there is something for everybody.

Project Template for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

4. Do you perceive any additional challenges and/or have additional advice for meeting challenges related to the proposed change?

I think all English teachers, as well as students themselves, should contribute to the English Club. The fear is that only few teachers would encourage their students to use, mainly because they did not any input in this endeavor. It is true that teachers support what they help create! Moreover, it is a learning experience for teachers when they are given the opportunities to rotate looking after the English Club. So, rotation, with monitoring, is very much encouraged.

I assure you that in the work plan, all the teachers in the department are involved in the process and all will be involved in using the materials in The English Club.

5. Does the type of assessment match the goals and outcomes of the proposed change?

Yes, it does.

6. Other comments or questions?

- Just to reemphasize that all the English teachers in the school need to be involved right from the beginning of its start in the process. This is to guarantee that it will be utilized.
- Also it has to be advertised well for students. Students can look after the English Club. Different activities can be initiated in the English Club, e.g. intra and inter-schools competitions of different types.