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**Winter - Spring 2011, Shaping Chile Networks
University of Oregon, American English Institute
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Action Plan Project for “Shaping the Way We Teach English”

In this online course, we are focusing on new teaching techniques and resources. Choose one technique or classroom innovation that you would like to incorporate into your class, and develop an action plan (below) for accomplishing this. Please give as much detail as possible.

Date Created: 6/1/11

Class: 7th graders

Name of Action Plan Creator: Exequiel Vargas

Number of Students: 30

New teaching techniques or ideas I plan to use: cooperative learning, creative thinking, contextualizing language, peer evaluation, independent learning, rubrics.

Language Level: Beginning

My Class Now

I am an active source of English inside the classroom. Students have a low speaking English level, but some of them make an effort to understand what they're listening to through translating into Spanish what they hear in English. They are not as active as expected and most of the time, working in groups is a waste of time because they do different things instead of doing the activities given by the teacher. They are used being more receptive than communicating and participating in the class. The students are a little bit lazy in working and doing different duties, and most of time they don't respond effectively. Students tend to repeat what they read in the book, but most of time using Spanish rather than English.

My Class in the Future (My Vision)

Students will be more confident in speaking English in oral presentations in front of their classmates. Students will work cooperatively and collaboratively in groups, working inside the classroom with their classmates (cooperatively and collaboratively) and outside by themselves independently.

Students will be effective in writing real and correct information based on the given topic. They should search for the information based on instructions, guided tasks and recommendations given by the teacher. Also, they will be assessed with a rubric given to them in advance when they present their project.

Additional Explanation from Action Plan Creator

In “My Class in the Future (My Vision)” above, you described a change 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 about your educational setting.

1. **The benefits I predict from this change:** First, students will develop their learning skills and different abilities to fulfill tasks given to them to work with. Students will be able to work in groups, accomplishing different roles and duties. Students will be able to work cooperatively and collaboratively, taking into account the importance of their roles as important pieces of creating a final product of their own. Students will be capable of using real English in a real context based on their own need in creating a project according to their interests and likes. Students will be capable of following instructions and complete each task according to what they have to accomplish at the end of their projects. Students will be more aware of their important role in group work in order to accomplish together the same objective based on their group and individual work, making them more analytical in developing a project, understanding the steps, the responsibilities, their fulfilled duties and awareness of their progress.
2. **Challenges I expect:** Probably students will refuse to work with duties assigned to them because most of the time they argue they don't know English, or they won't be capable of accomplishing different duties each one has to do. They are afraid to speak and perform in front of the class in English, because they feel they could be exposed to ridicule or just make errors.
3. **How I will address those challenges:** At the same time I'll give them their own space to work cooperatively and collaboratively as well as individually outside the class. I will be a constant guide and supporter who will be encouraging them to work, to develop, and to successfully accomplish their tasks involved in their projects.
4. **Steps and timeline (schedule) for completing the change:** 1st class: students will group teams of 4 students each. Then each group will choose a topic given by the teacher. The teacher will also give them the instructions, the different duties and responsibilities they'll work with. Using videos, music, newspapers and also information from media (as authentic materials) students will design their project. 2nd class: students will start organizing information and authentic material they'll use in their presentation and final project. Students will have the chance to practice what they're going to present. 3rd class: students will use different technology resources such as laptops, projectors, videos, online presentation and samples to support their projects and explanations. Finally each group-mate will assess the components of their own team, and then teams will assess the other teams. Students will receive feedback and will be aware the importance of their roles to fulfill duties collaboratively and cooperatively.
5. **How I will assess the degree of success of the change:** Students will give a 3-minute presentation on their project. They will receive feedback about positive and negative aspects, emphasizing their strengths and positive aspects. Teacher: I'd like to record the class and then show it to teachers of “talleres comunales” so that they can express and reflect on what is working well and share what changes or suggestions they could add to improve the teaching practice inside the classroom. Also, I'll have a self-assessment on the changes students dealt with and what positive aspects and achievements they accomplished in the project.