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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: 5/28/11**

**Class: 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Name of Action Plan Creator: Fernando Barrios Fernandez**

**Number of Students: 45**

**Language Level: Beginning**

**My Class Now**

My classes are normally large, about 45 students who are not used to speaking in English, and it's difficult for me to develop speaking activities because they are not willing to speak. They feel inhibited, and they don't want to make mistakes. I can't supervise everyone to make sure they speak in English. Most of my class activities are related to listening and reading comprehension and grammar activities. They don't usually put into practice what they have learnt in their lessons. As a consequence of this, they feel they are not learning because they don't speak, and they don't do too many real speaking activities so that they can learn to think in and use the language in real communicative activities. They just do some pair work and few communicative activities, especially on this unit where they have to talk about places and describe different kinds of landscapes.

**My Class in the Future (My Vision)**

My class will have more communicative activities so that students can talk the majority of the class and they feel more confident and with a high self-esteem and can understand that they learn by making mistakes. To achieve this, I will use group work with monitor students who will help me to supervise students' work and to ensure that they really use the foreign language. Also, I will include problem-solving activities, but very short ones so that they can speak and use the language in different situations. The exercises provided will be done with the aid of pictures for finding the differences or similarities, asking questions for completing information, describing pictures, finding things in common, following routes and role playing. The activities will go from guided to semi-guided to freer production. To evaluate their progress I'll provide the students checklists and rubrics, which I'll also use.

### **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:** Everybody will have the chance to speak, and their contributions will be important, so their motivation and self –esteem will be higher. They will really use the language in real situations. There will not be memorization activities. They will learn by doing because they will be faced with different communicative activities. As the activities will be short and varied, they will not get bored.
2. **Challenges I expect:** Students won’t really communicate in the foreign language in an easy and comprehensible manner.
3. **How I will address those challenges:** Students will work in groups with a monitor student who will play the role of teacher and will make sure everyone speaks.
4. **Steps and timeline (schedule) for completing the change:** First I will inform students of the learning outcomes of the class: describing places and landscapes in English in an easy and comprehensible manner. Secondly, I will provide the students short controlled practice activities for describing pictures with a specific given vocabulary. Thirdly, they will do semi-guided speaking activities such as finding differences and similarities. Finally, they will do free production activities, such as a role-play of a tourist and a guide or picture description of a touristic route.
5. **How I will assess the degree of success of the change:** I will assess with a checklist given to the student as a self evaluation of their progress and a rubric with the specific criteria for the assessment of the role play and picture description.