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**Winter - Spring 2011, Shaping Chile Networks  
University of Oregon, American English Institute  
Author: Maria Gabriela Peso**

**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: 6/5/11**

**Class: 11<sup>th</sup> graders**

**Name of Action Plan Creator: María Gabriela Peso Sáez**

**Number of Students: 45**

**New teaching techniques or ideas I plan to use: Use of technology, authentic materials, rubrics, collaborative and cooperative work.**

**Language Level: ALTE 2**

**My Class Now**

I teach 11<sup>th</sup> grade. I have 45 students per class, a large class with students who have discipline problems, but at the moment I can face that.

Besides, I have students with special needs, “learning problems.” Most of the time these students don’t understand directions in their own language and this is a big problem. I adapt activities for them so that they can work and be motivated to learn English. They enjoy working on projects, especially in groups, and they like to create things

For me It’s easier to work on the receptive skills: listening and reading than the productive ones: speaking and writing. Students don’t communicate in English; they are afraid of speaking because of pronunciation mistakes.

The school has a computer lab.

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

Now, students love to work with technology to learn, so they are going to communicate in a better way because they will work on the computer lab with interactive online exercises to improve their pronunciation and fluency. Besides students with special needs will feel more confident with these kinds of exercises and with the use of computers.

Learners are going to talk with teenagers from different English-speaking countries and about topics they have in common.

After improving their *communicative* skills students will be able to be active learners in the class of English and participate in most of the activities.

At the end of this project, students in groups of 3 will create and present a short conversation in front of the class.

### **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:** With this project students will feel more confident to speak in English; also they are going to improve their pronunciation and obtain fluency. Students are going to be able to appreciate collaborative work in order to fulfil an aim. They are going to learn about different cultures because they will meet teenagers from different countries. Finally, students are going to learn that they can have fun with the use of technology and learn English.
2. **Challenges I expect:** I think the big challenge is the fact that the students probably will want to use the internet for other purposes, for instance to play games or look at different web pages. Besides, at the beginning of this activity, students will not want to talk with other people in English.
3. **How I will address those challenges:** I will give students specific links and also, I’m going to walk around the computer lab in order to monitor students work. To help students feel more confident when talking with other teenagers, I will give them a set of useful expressions to use in their conversations; besides, I will be there to give help if it is needed.

4. **Steps and timeline (schedule) for completing the change:**

11th grade has 3 hours per week

**WEEK 1**

- a) Communicate the learning objective of the class.
- b) Give students a worksheet with some useful expressions to use in real communication.
- c) Practise pronunciation of those expressions and some others provided by students.
- d) Give students a set of safe links with addresses to chat with teenagers from different countries.

**WEEK 2**

- e) Go to computer lab and practice in the use of computers, help students who have problems to use them
- f) Form pairs to work at each computer.
- g) Students go to links and start practicing real communication.

### WEEK 3

- h) Practice real communication using Internet. (teacher assesses using a checklist).

### WEEKS 4 and 5

- i) Give students a set of safe links with addresses to chat with teenagers from different countries.
- j) Students form groups of 3 and work on their oral conversation.
- k) They present their conversations in front of the class. (use rubric and peer assessment).
- l) Students reflect on their work.

5. **How I will assess the degree of success of the change:** The students work will be evaluated using a checklist for the first part (their work on the computer lab) and for the second (conversation in front of the class) I will use a rubric which will be given in advance to students and also peer assessment.