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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: 6/3/11

Class: 7th graders

Name of Action Plan Creator: Roberto Aedo

Number of Students: 45

**New teaching techniques or ideas I plan to use: learning styles,
collaborative learning, student autonomy, critical thinking**

Language Level: Beginning

My Class Now

Different styles of learning:

Today, my classes concentrate most of the activities on just a couple of learning styles. Reasons vary: different academic situations: time, bureaucracy, formality, resources and the educational system. Firstly, I spend most of my time at school teaching in the classroom and I am not given enough time to prepare material or innovative lessons. What is more, students have just two hours of English classes a week, and this is obviously not enough. Secondly, many times people in charge of schools are more worried about filling in forms or documents that have no direct relationship with the teaching process, which implies a pitiful waste of precious time that could be spent on preparing or implementing new activities or resources. Thirdly, very often we create wonderful or innovative lessons, but resources to implement them are not available. And finally, educational systems don't consider it useful to spend time exploring other learning styles than the ones oriented to math, language or science.

My Class in the Future (My Vision)

I intend to make my students more active in the classroom, exploring and accepting different learning styles. They will use new techniques, tools and resources to show what and how they have learned. They will have the chance to argue, support or criticize ideas, through activities containing different evaluation formats. They will be asked to create projects based on their own academic needs, obviously including authentic material.

More student autonomy and exploration of various learning skills; a student-centered environment, with more collaboration and cooperation; more analysis and evaluation, with full student participation in the evaluation process. I will also negotiate with students objectives, assessment and topics in order to fulfill their interests, expectations and needs. Students will present their own activities and topics to the class either in groups or individually. They will just follow a rubric to perform their presentation that was agreed on between us.

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:** Students will be able to exercise their own ways of learning, rather than have only one method of instruction, and they will understand and realize the importance of being able to learn from each other, as well as respecting somebody else’s opinion or perspective.
- 2. Challenges I expect:** Building awareness of the importance of exploring and discovering their own style of learning. On the other hand, we will face the incomprehension of a system more worried about having good results on standardized tests rather than making the learning process suitable, comprehensible and connected with their real world.
- 3. How I will address those challenges:** Providing constant support for their learning styles and varying activities so that a wide range of fun and meaningful activities are provided for students. I will give students the chance to do tasks using their own abilities and supporting their choices and decisions made in the process.
- 4. Steps and timeline (schedule) for completing the change:** Based on weekly classes of 3 hours each, where one hour per class will be devoted to the project.
Week 1: Setting Goals, exposure to multiple intelligences theory.
Week 2: Presentation of an activity to discover their own learning style.
Week 3: Discussion of possibilities and challenges.
Week 4: Establishing objectives and evaluation system from now on.
Week 5: Presentation of the first topic developed by students.
- 5. How I will assess the degree of success of the change:** Successful completion of the project will be determined by the change of presenting, performing, assessing and developing activities and topics. At least 60 % of the classes will be presented by students by the end of the second term. Self and peer evaluation are going to be part of the process. Rubrics will include aspects and points agreed on by the whole class.