How to Make an ESP WebQuest

WebQuest Description: In this WebQuest*, English for Specific Purposes teachers will learn how to design a collaborative web-based project for their students using the WebQuest format. *This is not, in fact, a good example of a WebQuest, as it's missing a collaborative component, but it's designed to help ESP teachers start developing WebQuests.

Grade Level: College / Adult
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: ESP, webquest, project, English for Specific Purposes, teacher development, PBL, teacher training
Published On: 2012-06-07 13:29:54
Last Modified: 2012-06-08 01:21:54
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=154493

Introduction

What is a WebQuest and why should I use it to teach English for Specific Purposes?* A WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented lesson format in which most or all the information that learners work with comes from the web. *A WebQuest is an activity that can be fruitfully exploited in ESP. This activity involves the use of authentic material from different Internet sources and engages students in reading extensively on a topic related to their discipline, performing tasks of increasing complexity, and creating oral or written texts to present the results of their online work. WebQuests fit well in a learner-centered curriculum that seeks to help students develop autonomous learning. The role of the teacher is not to transmit knowledge, but to provide resources, help students develop learning strategies, guide the learning process, and offer support throughout the process.*

Tasks

Create a WebQuest for ESP students
You are an ESP teacher whose students need to use English in a more communicative, authentic way that reflects the tasks they will need to perform in their work in the real world. In order to get your students working, communicating, thinking and collaborating together, you've decided to create a WebQuest for them to complete. You want to develop a blended-learning project where, as in the real-world, students will have to do some of the work individually on the Internet and some of the work face-to-face in meetings with their group members. You have one week to develop your WebQuest on Zunal.com.

Process

A. Getting started developing a WebQuest for ESP students
1. What do WebQuests for your ESP specialty look like? Here are some examples:
   a. &nbsp;Medical
   b. &nbsp;Nursing
   c. &nbsp;Tourism
   d. &nbsp;Business
   e. &nbsp;Information Technology
2. Look for Internet Resources related to your themes and task
   Do a google search - WebQuest; your academic specialty; English; &nbsp;Project; B. Gathering Resources
3. What themes or topics can be researched on the net that are related to your students' needs and the final product?
4. Choose a theme/topic which encourages multiple view points and can be approached in different roles.
5. Look for Internet Resources related to your themes and task
6. Do a google search - WebQuest; your academic specialty; English; &nbsp;Project
7. Consider non-web resources (e.g. computer, video camera etc.)
8. Which ones are necessary to complete your project.
9. How will students access them?
10. Mapping out your project
11. Using backwards design, map out the enabling tasks and skills a student needs to do to complete the final product.
12. Refer to the links below or watch the video "How to Make A WebQuest" if you need more help.

B. Collaborator and idea sharer
1. Collaborator and idea sharer
2. Share the resources you've found with your peers who are teaching a similar course (post them on the LMI ESP Teacher's Forum)
3. Brainstorm ideas with your peers about how to integrate resources into a coherent, group project.
4. Keep in mind your criteria of a good ESP project: authentic, learner-centered/needs-based, public final product, logical steps, curricular goals, integration of skills, and relative to time frame and access to resources.
5. Evaluate your peers WebQuests by finding their WebQuest links on the LMI.
### Evaluation

1. **Purpose**
   - This is the part of the WebQuest where you put the rubric or evaluation tool that you will use to evaluate students’ performance. It’s important to inform students before they start about how they will be assessed, so that they know what to focus on.

2. **Rubric**
   - A rubric can be used by students to evaluate themselves and their peers. It can also be used by the teacher to determine their final grade for the project.

3. **Task**
   - To create a rubric for your project, follow these instructions:
     1. Click on **Evaluation** and "update content".
     2. Decide if you will give group grades, individual grades or both.
     3. Finalize your WebQuest: Use pictures; check spelling & grammar; check for weird formatting or typos.
     5. Look under "Publication Current Status".
     6. If it says "NO", then click the "PUBLISH" button right next to it. Now everyone can view your WebQuest.
     7. Share it with other teachers: Post the URL of your WebQuest in a comment on the LMI Teacher’s Forum or email it to friends and colleagues.

4. **Process**
   - Click on **Process** and "update content".
   - Write down the steps the student must follow to complete the task. Describe different roles that can be taken on by each member of the group in order to create a common product which is the synthesis of all their research. The task should be structured so that they share more information; they should share their perspectives too.

5. **Evaluating Rubric**
   - List internet links and resources (including people, email contacts, places & materials from the real world) that the students can use to complete their task. At the bottom of the "Process" page you can upload links, YouTube videos, Word documents - almost anything.

### Rubric Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Starter</th>
<th>Learning Fast</th>
<th>Competent</th>
<th>Expert</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our ESP Project requirements</td>
<td>A flimsy task. Not very authentic. No collaboration.</td>
<td>An overly ambitious task for the time frame which may include some inauthentic elements.</td>
<td>A collaborative task which sometimes lacks authenticity. Reflects students interests. Mostly realistic.</td>
<td>Authentic, real-world task which reflects students needs. Collaborative. Integrates skills. Feasible in learning time frame.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TASK includes a final product (presentation, report etc...)</td>
<td>There is no final product.</td>
<td>There is a final product, but it’s not very clear.</td>
<td>The final product is stated, but some instruction is missing.</td>
<td>The final product is clear, doable and related to students goals and interests.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROCESS</td>
<td>Steps are listed. It reads like a lesson plan.</td>
<td>Steps are listed in order and some resources are listed. It’s not clear if there should be collaboration or not.</td>
<td>Steps are listed in order and all resources (weblinks) the students need are listed too. Collaborative roles are included, but they might be unclear.</td>
<td>Steps are listed in detailed order and the resources are logically displayed in a user-friendly way. Instructions are methodical and clear. Collaborative roles are clearly explained.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVALUATION Rubric</td>
<td>Criteria of the project are stated.</td>
<td>Criteria of the project and the different ratings are stated.</td>
<td>Criteria have descriptors for each rating stated.</td>
<td>Criteria have descriptors which show a logical progression at each level.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Try it out with your students. I hope you had fun creating a WebQuest. Now find out what your students think! Let them do the WebQuest. Reflect on their performance. Have them give you feedback. Ask them if it's motivating, realistic, useful and fun. Make your own observations. Have your students' communication, critical thinking and collaboration skills improved? Which parts of the WebQuest help these skills? You can edit it until it's perfect, or you can always make another WebQuest. Good luck!

Teacher Page

This has been designed for an online teacher training seminar in ESP & Project-based Learning. The aim is for practicing ESP teachers to put together a WebQuest in one week which they could implement with their students. It's assumed that these teachers will use the WebQuest to create a blended learning project, and not a project which students would do entirely online. Student products can be displayed in the classroom, in a blog (see Blogger.com), in a Wiki, on a website (google.pages). For the collaborative part of this WebQuest I've asked teachers to share their WebQuests in a forum. Obviously, if someone else is to use this for training purposes it would be important to change those links. Please do evaluate this and help me to make it clearer, less wordy and more user-friendly! Thanks.

Standards

Credits

Other