

I'll Huff and I'll Puff

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest requires students:1. To search, analyze, select, analyze, reject, use, socialize and manage information related to natural disasters available on the web.2. Design a digital presentation (Prezi) of the information and write the script using appropriate linking sentences.3. Deliver the oral presentation and reflect on their performance by means of self and peer assessment of the team work.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: ICT, oral presentation, Prezi, information search, natural disaster, English area, 4th CSE, peer assessment, self assessment, computer skills, presentation skills.

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Introduction

There's no doubt!!!! In today's world we are constantly bombarded with messages, both good and bad. No matter where you live, where you go to school, or what kinds of media you use, you are probably exposed to hundreds, if not thousands, of advertising messages every day. Because we live in a world where we are overwhelmed with content, communicating information in a way that is accessible to others is more important today than ever before. And this is one of the reasons for our new project "I'll Huff and I'll Puff!". You and your group have to design, create and deliver an oral presentation, using Prezi, on a natural phenomena or disaster. For that purpose, you have to choose a natural disaster or phenomena of your interest, you can either choose a recent well-known catastrophe or a rare, unique and spectacular natural happening. Depending on your choice, decide the kind of information you will need to select and include so that your audience can understand it easily. Once your presentation is ready both in paper and in digital format, go ahead and overcome the fear of public speaking!!

Tasks

In this activity there are different steps, let's have a look at them: Choose a natural disaster or phenomena of your interest. Search, analyse, select, reject, retrieve, assess and manage the information you want to include. Use Prezi to create and design the digital presentation. Write the script and use appropriate sentences to link ideas. Rehearse and rehearse until you are ready and deliver the oral presentation. And, last but not least, assess your own performance and your team performance. As you have noticed, there are many things to think about, some among them are: What is, in your opinion, the most impressive, destructing or worth to mention natural disaster? What information do you want to highlight? Who are you going to talk to? Are they experts? Do they understand well English? And, moreover, would they easily understand technical words or facts or figures? What verb tense is the most appropriate to describe past events? Do I know some time expressions to give the information in chronological order? How does Prezi work? What is important when delivering a presentation? What about if I get very nervous and forget all the information? WOW! Yes, no doubt, writing and giving an oral presentation in a foreign language about an unknown topic and using a new software will be a challenge, for sure!!

Process

1. First of all, decide the topic of your presentation. Try to select something easy to explain and to understand. Talking about something we like or are interested in usually makes the difference in oral presentations. You have to feel what you are telling your audience. If you enjoy it, they will do it too. Remember who is your audience. In this case, your classmates, so, don't forget they aren't experts. Simplify.
2. Once your topic is clear, it's time for the information search. First, use a mind-map or a brainstorming process to elicit all possible ideas and, second, look for factual (dates, scientific info, figures...) and analytical (hypothesis) information on the Internet. Have a look at the resources given. Check the resources. There is a video about how figures are expressed in English.
3. Next, you and your group will create a digital presentation (Prezi) taking several aspects into account: Control the amount of information: simplify and get to the point. Use all means available on the Web: videos, photos, etc.
4. Write the first draft of the speech. Include the three sections of a presentation: introduction, body and conclusion. Help yourself with the specific structures and vocabulary included in order to link sentences properly.

INTRODUCTION: In this section you tell your audience who you are, what the presentation is about and the reason for choosing the topic. Try to catch their attention with an unexpected element, such as music, video or image. You are expected to give them a background on the topic.

MAIN BODY: In this second section, you will explain the main details of the topic. The information given shouldn't be too hard, difficult or long. Visual aids will help you to keep the attention of the audience. It is very important to recap information and to make the public aware of the point where you are. For example, if the main part has 5 points, it's advisable to specify always the point number you are talking about.

CONCLUSION: Is the last section and the one dedicated to summarize the main points and to offer a conclusion. As in the introduction, try to catch their attention with an unexpected element, again an impacting video, image or similar. It is very important to finish the conclusion properly and not to use something like "And that's all".- 5. Finally, it's time to deliver our presentation. Being nervous or afraid is something normal. Try to be aware of your speech, not to talk too slowly or fast and change the tone not to be monotone. Remember that regarding information, the point is quality and not quantity.

BODY LANGUAGE plays a very important role in this step. We don't notice it but our posture says many things about us and our feelings. Here some tips: Always face the audience. Use your hands to emphasize and reinforce your points. Vary your gestures and positioning. Nod your head and smile to emphasize what you are saying. Make eye

contact with all members of the audience

Evaluation

The evaluation is divided into three main parts: Peer assessment: All of you will also assess your team's performance. For that purpose, we will use the site SurveyMonkey. Please click [here](#) to access the survey. Self assessment: All of you will also evaluate your own team performance. Please click [here](#) to access the survey. Teacher's assessment.

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very good	Exemplary	Score
Content	Content is minimal. There are no details. The information given is incomplete and is not useful.	Students' content needs more detail. The information given is not well organised and not clear.	Students provide detailed content. The content is organized and the planning is clear.	Students provide detailed content and useful information. Content is organized.	
Team work	No team work at all. Unbalanced accomplishment of tasks.	Students didn't work in team. The communication within the group was minimal.	Students worked together to accomplish the tasks. There was communication within the group.	Students work in team all the time. They helped each other. Very good level of communication within the group.	
Use of English	Very poor English. Unintelligible oral presentation.	Poor English. Almost unintelligible oral presentation.	English easily understandable. Correctness and accuracy.	Very good. No grammatical errors. Highly cohesionated speech.	
Oral presentation	Presentation is done partially. Low comprehensibility, lack of information, non-verbal information out of control. No visual aids.	Very few visual aids. Non-relevant information, almost incomprehensible. Lack of organization and preparation.	Some visual aids. Main information included. Sometimes unclear. Stage performance good enough.	Lots of visual aids provide a clear understanding. Smooth presentation full of details. Information treatment properly done. Overall situation under control.	
				Total Score	

Conclusion

The project "Let's Prezi it!" will help you to improve and develop the following skills and competences: Communicative skills in English: You will search and select information and, afterwards, you will read, write and express it. Technical competence: You will work with a new and very useful software and your main resource will be basically the Web. Critical thinking skills: You will skillfully conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information. You will have to use a reasonable, reflective thinking in order to decide what to believe. Verbal and nonverbal skills: Verbal because you will hold a speech and non-verbal because you will have to be aware of your face expressions, hand and eye movements, postures and gestures. Presentation skills: Presenting information clearly and effectively is a key skill to get your message or opinion across and, today, presentation skills are required in almost every field. Preparing, organising, writing and rehearsing it, coping with nerves and overcome fear of public speaking. Once the activity comes to an end, please reflect back on what you have learned as well as on your weak and strong points. I would also like to encourage you to learn more about essential life skills and the ways and tools we have to improve them. So, that's all the time we have for this topic, but if you'd like to pursue it more on your own check the resource included out.

Teacher Page

Standards

Credits

Other