

Collaborating Online

by

Fabio Bonilla

Bogota

WebQuest Description: This is an innovative project for pre-service EFL teachers.

Grade Level: College / Adult

Curriculum: Foreign Language

Keywords: Collaboration, learning in joint activity, ICT

Published On: 2010-11-17 09:24:11

Last Modified: 2012-03-04 13:32:42

WebQuest URL: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=72662>

Introduction

Why would a collaborative project be relevant and necessary? Because collaboration provides opportunities for learners and teachers to build an environment where both learners and teachers teach and learn from each other equally.

Tasks

What would students and teachers achieve to do and understand through collaborative projects both in class and online? Both learners and teachers learn and understand the importance of interaction, dialogue and debate as a means to co-construct knowledge and understanding about issues of concern. In addition, they learn and understand how to support their literacy practices in collaboration with others, improve their interaction between student and student to teachers, and value and build the foundations for the need to include ICT resources in language pedagogy that helps to create active learning both in class and online.

Process

How will learners and teachers collaborate in class and online? Through collaborative inquiry, Wells (1999), by making agreements, managing conflicts, completing tasks, processing information, working to solve problems or concerns, creating a product in joint activity and in collaboration with others, communicating to one another and connecting at any time and any place. Srinivas (cited in Pallof & Pratt 2005). How will each of you be accountable? and How will you assess your own participation? When working in groups, it is helpful to establish rules and expectations at the very beginning of the semester. These are ways of communication, sharing of responsibilities, accountability which refers to what you value in terms of team participation, so, agreements should be made. A team charter serves as an agreement or contract among members, so it is necessary to outline how learners will interact together by determining the roles each member will play in the collaborative activity, and creating benchmarks and deadlines for the completion and submission of collaborative work. In order to make your group work successful, all group members must agree to accept the norms established by the group. As your group is forming, reach consensus on the following items and post your group's charter to the main discussion board in ning: How will your group identify itself? How will the group communicate? Through a forum, a discussion board, e-mail etc. What day during the week will the discussion begin? How quickly should group members be expected to respond to e-mails or discussion board postings? What roles or duties will each person in the group perform? Who is responsible for posting group responses to the main discussion board? How will the group handle a member who is not participating? Discuss any other topics that are unique to your group.

Evaluation

Two considerations regarding evaluation: Students self-assessment is a critical component of performance in an online course containing collaborative activity. Your perceptions of the value of the collaborative activity you experience are critically important in determining the activity's success or failure. If you document your perceptions of the contributions you are making to the ongoing exchange of ideas, you may learn an enormous amount about the conditions and behaviors that make discussions successful. The emphasis in evaluation should be on the learning generated by

