

PROJECTS

Proj 1 Planning a holiday webquest

Level pre-intermediate to upper intermediate

Interaction small groups, whole class

Aim To research information from the Internet then use that information to plan a holiday.

Language focus reviewing language for talking about maps, sightseeing, food and restaurants, hotels, transport, and planning

Technology presentation software

Before the class

This activity requires students to work in groups and research information on the Internet. You will need at least five computers with Internet access for them to achieve this. Because both the research and discussion stages require quite a lot of time, you might want to run this activity over more than one lesson.

Prepare a presentation with six slides headed *Where to stay*, *What to see*, *Where to eat*, *What to buy*, *How to get around* and *Schedule*.

Create a handout with addresses of websites where students will be able to find information on the city they are researching.

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into five small groups. Ask them to brainstorm the sort of things they would need to consider when planning a holiday. Ask the groups to report back ideas. Write them on the board.
- 2 Tell the students to imagine that they are all going on holiday together to London. Explain that they are going to research different areas of information that they will need, then work together to make a plan which they will present to the rest of the group.
- 3 Distribute the handout and allocate one of the areas to each group. Send each group to work on a separate computer to research their area. Ask them to save their results onto memory sticks. This research step will require at least 30 to 40 minutes.
- 4 After they have completed their research the groups transfer their results to the computer linked to the IWB.
- 5 Appoint a chairperson to run the discussion. Open the presentation. The chairperson invites the group responsible for accommodation to present their results and the entire class discuss which hotel they will choose. The discussion continues through the rest of the slides, culminating with a discussion of the schedule for the holiday. During this step, provide whatever support you think necessary.

Follow up

Save the completed presentation. Ask the students to write about a past or future holiday as a homework task.

Proj 2 Peer correction with a class wiki

Level intermediate and above

Interaction groups, whole class

Aim To encourage students to peer correct.

Language focus essay writing

Technology class wiki

Before the class

Set up a class wiki. The wiki provides your students with an opportunity to practise their writing away from the classroom.

Procedure

- 1 Present the wiki and its functions in the lesson and check the students are happy using it. Give the students their essay title for homework eg *Describe the advantages and disadvantages of telecommuting*. Ask them to each post their essay on the class wiki.
- 2 When the deadline for the homework has passed, put students into pairs and ask each student to open their classmate's essay before the next lesson and make between three and five corrections. Tell them not to forget to click *Save changes*.
- 3 In the next lesson, open the wiki and look at a selection of corrected essays. Ask the students who made the corrections to come out to the IWB and explain their corrections to the whole group. Monitor and evaluate. You can use the *History* button at any time to access the original text.

Follow up

Mark all the essays as usual. In the next lesson, provide group feedback.

Variation

In the second lesson, ask all the students to visit everyone else's essays and make one change to each one if necessary.

Comment

This activity carries over more than one lesson. Discuss with the group first if they would like their writing to be read by their peers before the teacher corrects them. Encourage the group to agree to this extra stage.

Proj 3 Dictionary project

Level intermediate and above

Interaction pairs, groups

Aim To produce a short report with recommendations about which dictionary the language school should buy.

Language focus all four language skills

Technology presentation and word-processing software, flipchart

Before the class

Prepare a flipchart as below, with the stages of a report, in a jumbled order.

Title | Contents page | Introduction [Background | Who for | Scope | Aims] | Method | Data | Findings | Recommendations | References