

CREATING A CLASSROOM NEWSPAPER AS A WAY TO IMPROVE STUDENTS FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

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This article is devoted to creating a newspaper in the lesson or as a part of homework which helps develop lesson activities and improve students' foreign language skills such as writing, reading, speaking and comprehension, listening. Also we view different tasks which are necessary to fulfill the idea.

Key words: *creating a newspaper, writing, reading, speaking and comprehension, listening.*

КЛАССНАЯ ГАЗЕТА КАК СПОСОБ УЛУЧШИТЬ НАВЫКИ ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА У ОБУЧАЮЩИХСЯ

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В данной статье мы рассмотрим тот факт, что создание классной газеты в рамках занятий по иностранному языку не только способствует разнообразию образовательного процесса, но и помогает улучшению следующих навыков у обучающихся: письма, чтения, говорения, понимания, аудирования; также приведем в качестве примера различные задания, необходимые при данном виде деятельности, которые могут выполняться студентами в классе или в качестве домашнего задания.

Ключевые слова: *создание газеты, письмо, чтение, говорение, понимание, аудирование.*

It is obvious that to know any foreign language is a necessity today. Nowadays we have more opportunities to communicate with foreigners because of our access to the Internet, for example. It is widely known that English is the most popular to be learned. More people of different age choose it as a subject to know.

Demand breeds supply. Creative methods of teaching, different fun activities during the lesson and as a part of homework are occurring widely. Perhaps some of them are rather doubtful, but others prove themselves. As it is mentioned above in this very article we will talk about creating a newspaper in the English lesson or as a part of homework which helps develop lesson activities and improve students' English language skills such as writing, reading, speaking and comprehension, listening. Also we will give probable newspaper sections and view different tasks to fulfill the idea.

It is a good idea to encourage "...students to read and write in ways that allow them to make sense of real language in real contexts is more likely to help them develop the skills necessary to become fluent readers and writers. Creation of a class newspaper provides such a real context, and thus makes an excellent choice as the basis for a project designed with this goal in mind [1]".

First we should define what a newspaper is. "A newspaper is a periodical publication containing written information about current events. Newspapers can cover a wide variety of fields such as politics, business, sports and art, and often include materials such as opinion columns, weather forecasts, reviews of local services, obituaries, birth notices, crosswords, editorial cartoons, comic strips, and advice columns [2]". So your students will have a lot of topics to work with.

There are some activities that precede writing. They are very vital to any successful writing program. A student must activate his or her thought processes and creativity before making a draft [3]. Pre-writing includes:

1. Review of films, books;
2. Searching on the Internet;
3. Interviewing experts;
4. Making a glossary [3];
5. Watching news;
6. Reading books.

As it has been mentioned there may be a number of newspaper sections. The following sections seem to be the most suitable ones:

1. School/class news(current events sport, festivals, birthdays);
2. Essay (a student can choose a subject, express his or her opinion, perhaps give some advice);
3. Crossword;
4. English-speaking countries traditions review;
5. Interview.

Writing texts about class/school news students will train their vocabulary on everyday topics. Writing an essay is a good way to learn how to start your speech both orally or in a written form, how to give the idea and how to conclude. While making a crossword students will learn to find synonyms. English-speaking countries traditions review is an essential part because it is almost impossible to have profound knowledge of any foreign language without understanding country's culture. Interview is an activity that will help improve listening and speaking skills because you have to ask questions and listen to the answers while taking an interview. Then you should write it down and your classmate will read it so interview helps improve writing and reading skills as well. Of course these sections are only our attempt to advice.

Creating a newspaper is an excellent way to provide students with good foreign texts. There is one more point to note, those who learn English, German, Spanish, French and Italian here in Krasnoyarsk are lucky because they can find practically any desired text or book. But those who learn, for example, Korean, Lithuanian or Estonian experience real lack of literature, so some "uncommon" language teachers

of Krasnoyarsk solve this problem by creating a classroom newspaper but we think that this means is good in teaching any language.

References

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