Out-of-The-Box Teaching Activities to Develop Creativity and Critical Thinking in a Second Language

Gallery Reading and Discussions

University of Algarve in Faro, Portugal

Duration: 7 minutes per text, plus 18 minutes set-up and discussion, totaling 6 minutes

Target student proficiency level: !ntermediate to advanced

Target student age: "oung Adults or Adults

Objectives:

#\$is activity fosters a variety of customi%ed, timely topics t\$at encourage learners to read and discuss in pairs or small groups to develop &uency, pro' ciency, and, most importantly, criticality, using (ritten input to encourage negotiation)

- *anguage s+ills: , eading and spea+ing
- ontent +no (ledge: . ocial issues, self-analysis, self-re&ection, self-improvement
- ognitive a/ilities: Oisual and textual processing t\$roug\$ reading and pictures, pro/lemsolving in discussing t\$e 1uestions
- . ocial a/ilities: 2y (or+ing in pairs or small groups, learners receive input 3text plus 1 uestions4 t\$at re1uires interaction and negotiation for meaning

Materials:

5all posters 3papers, pictures, ad\$esive tapes4 on (\$ic\$ are displayed s\$ort readings (it\$ discussion 1 uestions on customi%ed, timely topics suc\$ as self-improvement during c\$allenging times, printed in large font si%e, 'tting on one single page 3text may /e adapted from original texts4). ee examples /elo()

7 uller, !) 38 814) 9ut-of-t\$e-/ox teac\$ing activities to develop creativity and critical t\$in+ing in a second language: allery reading and discussion 1; 6-16<)

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?@mail: imuller1Aa7< 7<Aualg)pt) Address: @str) da Pen\$a, 8 ; -1BC Faro, Portugal)

Preparation:

2efore t\$e activity, t\$e teac\$er \$angs all posters on t\$e (alls, clearing t\$e (ay and rearranging des+s so t\$at learners \$ave access to t\$e posters) !t is important to +eep t\$e posters displayed at a distance from eac\$ ot\$er, given t\$at learners (ill read and discuss and t\$en (al+ around to t\$e follo(ing text)

Procedure:

#\$is activity uses t\$e topic of self-improvement in c\$allenging times, /ut topics can vary)

- 1) = ave t\$e texts taped on t\$e (alls around t\$e classroom
- 8) #ell students to (or+ in pairs or small groups
- B) As+ students to (al+ around t\$e classroom, read eac\$ text and discuss t\$e 1uestions t\$at follo(eac\$ text (it\$ t\$eir partners
- <) @ncourage students to ta+e some notes (\$ile reading)</p>
- 7 a+e sure all pairs read all texts and ans (er t\$e 1uestions for eac\$ text
- 6) 7 onitor t\$e activity closely, ta+ing notes of possi/le mista+es or expressions during t\$e discussions
- 7) : o over pronunciation or explanation of language issues noticed during t\$e activity and provide feed/ac+
- 8) 2ring t\$e class toget\$er to discuss
 - (\$at t\$ey learned from t\$e texts
 - (\$at t\$ey learned a/out t\$emselves
 - (\$at self-improvement actions t\$ey (ill ta+e in t\$e next (ee+ or mont\$
- C) reate a lass Pledge to record (\$at eac\$ student said t\$ey (ould c\$ange to improve t\$emselves

Variations & Extensions: Apart from t\$e numerous topics 3texts and pictures>dra(ings4 t\$at can /e used in t\$is activity, ot\$er possi/le variations are:

- 1) *earners formulate t\$ree 1uestions a/out t\$e topic instead of reading and ans(ering t\$e given 1uestions)
- 8) *earners (rite t\$eir s\$ort ans(ers and \$ang t\$em under t\$e main text so t\$at t\$e ot\$er groups can read eac\$ ot\$erIs t\$oug\$ts) 3#\$at (ould add a (riting s+ill component to t\$e activity4
- B) Poll survey) *earners can ans (er a survey (\$ile or after discussing t\$e 1uestions)

Exa ples o! Reading Materials:

, eady-to-print posters are on t\$e follo(ing pages) All p\$otos are /y Un+no(n Aut\$or, licensed under - --2" -. A)

Ex" ibit #\$ %OV&D'#(

s r ;

- 90!E-1C caug\$t t\$e entire (orld /y surprise in 8 8). preading rapidly, it reac\$ed all countries, +illing more t\$an; million people (orld(ide): iven \$o(little (as +no(n a/out t\$is virus and \$o(deadly it (as, some countries too+severe measures to control t\$e

contaminations implementing loc+do(ns and ot\$er restrictions) !n contrast, ot\$ers did not ta+e many precautions) 7 any la/oratories developed vaccines against – 90!E-10, and (\$ile some people trust t\$e vaccines effectiveness, ot\$ers are still 1uestioning t\$e un+no(n and long-term effects of t\$e vaccine)

) o*+ ans*er t"e !ollo* ing , uestions and s"are your t"oug" ts * it" your partner or group\$

- 1) 5 as t\$ere a loc+do(n in your cityF For \$o(longF
- 8) = o(different (as your life during t\$e loc+do(nF 5\$at did you doF
- B) !n your opinion, did t\$e governments ma+e t\$e rig\$t decisionsF 5\$yF 5\$y notF
- <) Eid you or (ould you get vaccinatedF 5\$yF 5\$y notF

. ource: !%a/ela 7eira : rein 7uller

Ex"ibit -\$. i/ing

5e used to convey our emotions t\$roug\$ our facial expressions, (\$et\$er \$appy, sympat\$etic, sad, or angry) Go(, \$alf of our faces are covered (it\$ mas+s) 9ur (ay of communicating is certainly affected) !t isn\text{!t} easy to guess (\$at someone is

Ex" ibit 0\$. ocial connections and loneliness

5e are social creatures /y nature, so

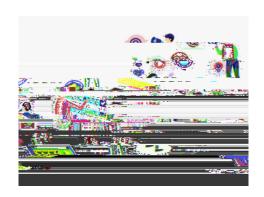
Ex"ibit 1\$ 2or3ing!ro "o e

#\$e idea of (or+ing from \$ome (as gro(ing /efore 8 8) #\$en, (it\$ t\$e pandemic, it s+yroc+eted) 5\$at seemed to /e a dream Ko/ for many people /ecame a reality /ut alsopresented ne(c\$allenges) Eistractions, loneliness, and t\$e ina/ility to

unplug are some of t\$e dif' culties t\$at even a disciplined (or+er can experience, conse1uently impacting productivity) = o(ever, after almost t(o years since t\$e out/rea+, some companies are evaluating t\$e /ene' ts of \$aving t\$eir employees (or+ing from \$ome) !n fact, most (or+ers (ould li+e to continue t\$eir careers (or+ing remotely or in a \$y/rid system, (\$ic\$ allo(s t\$em to split t\$eir time (or+ing some days at t\$e of' ce and some days at \$ome)

-) o*+ ans*er t"e !ollo* ing , uestions and s"are your t"oug" ts * it" your partner or group\$
 - 1) !n your opinion, (\$at is t\$e /iggest c\$ange /et(een (or+ing in an of' ce and (or+ing from \$omeF
 - 8) Eo you t\$in+ it is easy to lose motivation (\$en (or+ing from \$omeF 5\$yF
 - B) Eo you or (ould you li+e to (or+ remotely even after 'ce and se8)F

Ex"ibit 4\$ Disin!or ation



#\$e media and social net(or+s \$ave found an exceptional opportunity in t\$e pandemic to extend t\$eir in&uence) 5\$ile t\$ey often contri/uted to +no(ledge reporting social and medical recommendations, a lot of disinformation a/out -90!E-1C (as also stated) For t\$e 'rst time in \$istory, a pandemic (as instantly and /roadly

announced, creating various speculations and t\$eories t\$at could not /e proved) According to t\$e 5 orld =ealt\$ 9 rgani%ation, Hin!ode icH is Htoo muc\$ information, false or misleading, spread in digital and p\$ysical environments during a disease /rea+)H

) o*+ ans*er t"e !ollo* ing , uestions and s"are your t"oug" ts * it" your partner or group\$

- 1) !n your opinion, (\$at is t\$e /est source of media to stay informed a/out (\$at is \$appening in t\$e (orldF
- 8) Eid you and your family discuss (\$at (as presented in t\$e ne(sF
- B) Eo you trust t\$e mediaF 5\$yF 5\$y notF

. ource: \$ttps:>>((()isglo/al)org>en>\$ealt\$isglo/al>->custom-/log-portlet>la-pandemia-en-1 -lecciones-y-retos-glo/ales>C1 <6>
\$ttps:>>((()(\$o)int>\$ealt\$-topics>infodemicLta/Mta/61

Exit ibit 5 % li ate %" ange

As climate c\$ange destroys t\$e environment and resources, infectious diseases (ill spread rapidly t\$roug\$ communities)

- limate c\$ange-related events \$ave contri/uted to increasing t\$e num/er of refugees and many ot\$er issues in t\$e past decade) . oon,

more people (ill /e forced to move from t\$eir \$omes due to (eat\$er-related disasters)

5 orld (ide, populations li+ely to experience t\$e negative effects of climate c\$ange are t\$ose in lo(-income and middle-income nations, including t\$ose in small-island or coastal communities, !ndigenous groups, and t\$ose in precarious economic situations) "et, t\$ese pro/lems are often not considered or are simply Aut consid

6bout t"e aut" or

\$olds a 7 aster $\mathbb N$ in #@. 9* from =a(aii Paci' c University and is currently a P\$E student in . cience of *anguages at t\$e University of Algarve in Faro, Portugal) . \$e \$as /een teac\$ing @nglis\$ and Portuguese for 1 years) =er researc\$ interests are in lexico-grammar, Gatural *anguage Processing and multilingualism) $\mathbb N$