Promoting Digital Literacy & Closing The Educational Gap with a Global Project

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Abstract

EAP must adapt to global changes and the use of online tools and materials.

Research attests to the advantages of student-centered, project-based learning (PBL), which encourages the creation of independent, highly-motivated learners. Our students are pursuing degrees in science and the social sciences. Through the 100 People Project, (100people.org), an outstanding international resource for generating student interest and serious project work, students examine problems and search for solutions. According to Warschauer (2007), digital technologies have an immense impact on learning and literacy. Technology in general today is acknowledged as a key element to learners› autonomy.
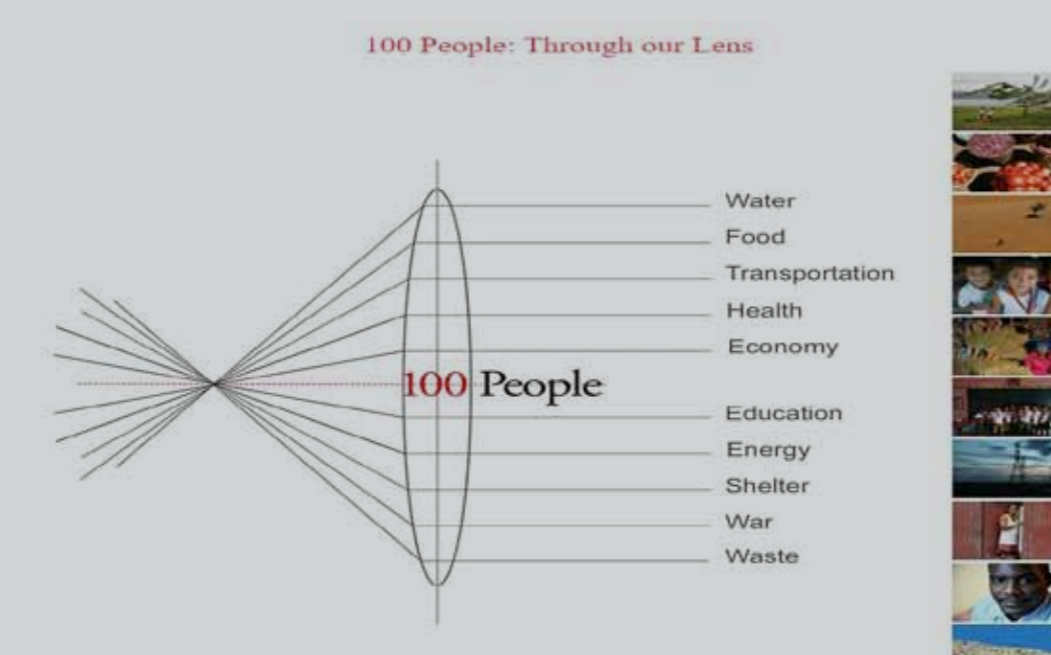
We have found that the focus on relevant global issues is extremely motivating. Our students gain proficiency in digital skills as well as the English language. The learning experience becomes more meaningful, as students are allowed to focus on their particular areas of interest and select their own reading materials in English.

Objectives

- Allow choice, while at the same time demand high standard outcomes.
- Provide learners with tools to deal with future situations
- Teach how to collect and interpret data, including teaching critical reading skills and digital skills.
- Offer the individual student an opportunity to pursue areas of specific interest. Including choice of materials and tools
- Encourage the use of all 4 language skills, whatever their chosen field of study may be.
- Equip learners with the seven literacies (Miodoser et. al - 2008).

Stage 1 Introducing 100 People Project

- Introduction to the concept of "If the World Were 100 People Village"
- Exposure to reoccurring vocabulary
- Guessing & confirming the numbers of people that would…
- Discussing the meaning of the above
- Articulating expectations of the learning and the project work

100 People: Through one Lens
Water / Food / Transportation / Health / Economy / Education / Energy / Shelter / War / Waste
100 People

English Skills
Vocabulary Building

Digital Skills
Quizlet & Online dictionaries

Stage 2 Learning the 10 Global Issues

In this stage we
- Focus on the 10 global issues
- View all videos with active viewing work sheets
- Use internet articles and tools in order to improve student motivation and enhance learning.
- Individualize students' work to suit their language level.
- Adapt and adopt relevant materials and online tools in order to increase student motivation.

English Skills
Listening & Reading Comprehension

Digital Skills
Interactive Videos

Stage 3 Group work on Topic: Problem+ Solution

Final Project

Purpose - to provide students with an opportunity to:
- Choose a global problem & a local solution
- Carry out an authentic task in groups of three
- Do independent research related to the topic you chose from the general project
- Work collaboratively online with Google Docs
- Present product & give a lecture in English

English Skills
Researching for Information

Digital Skills
Online Search Tools & Collaborative Portfolios

Stage 4 Creating Videos

- In order to ensure successful completion:
- Students write a script of their movie and discuss with teacher
- Students go through a workshop with a technology expert who teaches them video editing.
- Students submit a weekly report about their progress through the LMS (Moodle) weekly session becomes a workshop / studio where students, teacher and tutors interact.
- Students submit three stages of drafts of their videos

English Skills
Writing & Speaking

Digital Skills
Word Processing & Video Editing (Animoto)

Stage 5 Presentations

"The Big Day". All students come dressed in white. There are many invitees from both the institution and the community. After viewing, the audience asks questions.

English Skills
Speaking & Presenting

Digital Skills
Using Presentation Equipment

Learning Outcomes

- Students gain higher level of a foreign language (FL)
- Students gain confidence performing in a variety of situations
- Students achieve quality products adhering to high standards
- Students are prepared to navigate the digital world
- Learners are equipped with the seven literacies
- Connection is created between global and local issues
- Effective team work is experienced
- Project creates enthusiasm and sparks creativity.

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