Promoting Digital Literacy & Closing The Educational Gap
with a Global Project
Tal Levy & Karen Eini, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel

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 (Mioduser et. al - 2008).

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.

References