

Teaching Culture!



www.teaching-culture.de

Name of activity: How do they do this - and why?

Type of activity: Blogging, Internet search, collaboration and critical reflection

Topic: Compare different online videos with cultural content (such as dancing or singing) - and blog about this!

Material: PC, internet connection, note paper, coloured paper strips, pens, blue tag

Number of learners: As these lessons are supposed to take place in a computer lab, there must be not more than a pair of students for each PC - and you should be able to help out with eventual problems

Language level: Intermediate to advanced

Time: 2 x 120 (ideally, but less time could do)

Goal: Multimedia online literacy development, becoming familiar with web 2.0 tools and strategies

Possible challenges: Technophobia, computer breakdown, internet obstacles (such as firewall protection)

Preparation: Make sure the computer lab is available. Do some research online to make sure you have reasonable material and tips for the video search, and that you can reach these sites without problems.

Just in case of eventual obstacles, always have a plan B: showing short readymade videos on a TV or from the PC with a shared projector, and let the discussions start from there.

Procedure:

Encourage each pair to start their own weblogs by means of the free blog service at <http://blogger.com> and follow the easy instruction online on how to do this Begin writing some messages to test how this works.

Search for relevant video content online at places like <http://www.youtube.com> using search terms like "dance" or "song".

Don't forget to make bookmarks, eventually suggesting using shared tags with <http://del.icio.us> - just if you find the class is ready for more "food for thought" and knowledge sharing!

Leave the PCs alone for a long break. Use paper strips, pens and blue tag on the whiteboard for a lively class discussion to decide which kind of video content would be suitable for your project

Copy and the code string from one or more videos and create a new post in the blog for each one where this string can be pasted. This procedure will allow you to play the video directly from inside your own Blogs.

View the videos some more times and discuss what you see. Motivate your choice and find out which specific information you can retrieve about this cultural manifestation

Write your impressions in one or more new postings in your blog. Let your personal reflections guide the discussion.

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Follow up: Invite the other participants as well as the teacher(s) to add their comments in each of the other pair's Blogs. Encourage different viewpoints!

Alternatively parts of this exercise could be prepared by online collaboration as homework with access to email help from the teacher and the other students involved as peer supporters - instead of working all the time together in the PC lab!

(This is part of what I did with a class of 15 Danish teacher students recently - I really need to make sure this procedure could be understood by someone who is not comfortable with computers.

Some examples of such videos that I've suggested looking at could be found here at <http://worldofwebheads.blogspot.com/>)

I also wonder how to cut up this lesson or course plan into two parts.

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