

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ETWINNING PROJECTS

Title of your project plan: Democracy in our Life

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Project idea:

In this project the students from 2 European schools will collaborate on the topic of Democracy. They will brainstorm vocabulary related to the meaning of the word and they will express their ideas as to what it means to them in their everyday life. Moreover, they will learn about Human Rights, Civil Rights and Children's Rights by reading texts and listening to relevant information. The texts will be excerpts from an authentic literary text by a well-known and acclaimed novelist and will provide them with the opportunity to be exposed to new vocabulary. Throughout the project, the students will work in mixed groups and will use IT tools in order to communicate and collaborate. The project will be presented to the rest of both school communities during a celebration of Europe Day.

Table of summary	
Subject(s)	English, Citizenship, Social studies, Literature, IT, Music
Age of students	15-16 years old
Number of students	15 students from each school
Time frame/duration	6-7 months
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To learn what the word Democracy means• To improve vocabulary related to the topic• To use English effectively to communicate with partners from another country and to gain confidence in doing so.• To acquire knowledge regarding the use of digital tools that facilitate online communication and collaboration• To express oneself in creative ways, through Poetry, Music and Video
Resources and tools	<p>The project will be conducted on the Twinspace asynchronously but there will also be two synchronous sessions on Webex or Teams. So, the computer lab of each school will be used unless there is appropriate equipment inside the classroom. The necessary digital tools are the following:</p> <p>Answergarden, Padlet, Poster my Wall, PBworks, Crossword Labs, H5P, TwinSpace Pages and Forum, Webex or Teams, Google Forms Questionnaire</p>

Expected results	<p>The expected results will include the achievement of the above-mentioned learning objectives, shown in the following final products that will be created by the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • posters • short video • lyrics of a poem or song • presentation of all the activities of the project on Europe Day
Other considerations	<p>The activities have been designed so that all students have the opportunity to participate to the best of their abilities and skills. Working in groups will allow for differentiation of task choice and students will be able to choose roles that they feel comfortable with and will help boost their self-confidence in using the foreign language.</p>

PROCEDURE

ACTIVITIES

Name of activity	Work process	Description
Brainstorming	Students will have to think of vocabulary that they associate with the word Democracy and record their ideas on the digital tool Answergarden.	This whole class activity will activate prior vocabulary knowledge and prepare students for the next steps. The teachers act as facilitators and provide guidance with the use of the digital tool.
Ideas on the wall	Using a Padlet, students will post their ideas by writing a short paragraph as to what Democracy means to them in their everyday life. They can provide examples coming from personal experience or something they have seen, heard or read. They will also comment on a post by another student.	This is a good opportunity for students to express their opinions in written language but also to read and comment on other students' ideas. This is individual work but also whole class work which involves interaction. The teachers act as facilitators again and provide guidance with the use of the digital tool.
Children's Rights	The students will find the articles of "The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" on one of	This activity will teach the students the content of the Rights of the Child and also allow them to be creative by

	the project pages on the TwinSpace. In groups they will choose some of them in order to illustrate their understanding by creating drawings which they will upload as photos on the same page. Alternatively, they can use a digital tool (e.g. Poster my Wall) to create posters that will illustrate the articles they have chosen.	drawing and creating posters either on paper or online. The first part of the activity requires collaboration in groups and the second part will be done individually. The role of the teacher is educative as he/she can aid students by explaining concepts they do not understand.
1st online meeting: getting to know each other	The students will have a synchronous session in order to meet for the first time, present themselves and their schools and also present their work in the previous activity.	This is a plenary session. The teachers will have prepared the online meeting and will coordinate the discussion and the presentation of the students' work.
Reading from Literature	Using the TwinSpace, the teachers will give the students selected paragraphs from the authentic literary text "Beloved" by Toni Morrison. Then, the students will have to discuss the answers to specific questions, in the forum of the TwinSpace. Next, they will try to guess vocabulary from context in order to complete a crossword puzzle. Finally, they will listen to an interview by the author of the book and will answer questions created by the teachers with the use of the digital tool H5P.	A unique opportunity for exposure to authentic written and oral language that will enable students to learn new vocabulary while also learning about the conditions of life for slaves in the US in previous centuries. The students will act as explorers and creators of meaning, while the teacher has to provide the necessary material and the appropriate instructions. This work can be done in groups at each school.
Music time	The students will study the lyrics of songs written in defence of Human and Civil Rights, such as "We shall overcome", "Give Peace a chance", "If I had a Hammer". They will express their opinions by writing on the relevant TwinSpace page below each song.	The lyrics of songs are always a great way for students to learn or review and consolidate vocabulary in a pleasant way. This is individual work for the students but it will include interaction for the exchange of ideas. The teacher can provide guidance and facilitate the procedure.

<p>2nd online meeting: On Europe Day, Let's be creative!</p>	<p>Based on everything they have learnt from the previous activities, the students will work in transnational groups in online classrooms so as to create their own poems and/or songs. For this reason they will use the tool PBworks which provides a space/wiki for collaborative work. They will also undertake specific tasks in order to create short videos.</p>	<p>This is the stage where the students will be productive and will use the knowledge they have gained. The activity asks for collaboration in small groups, online, synchronously. The result of this activity will be a collaborative item of music, poetry, filming. The students will have to upload their creations on the TwinSpace and on the schools' websites, as their contribution to the celebration of Europe Day. The role of the teachers is to provide the necessary digital tools and to organize the online meeting and the break out rooms.</p>
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ASSESSMENT

Explain how you intend to assess your students during this project. How would you know if the learning objectives have been achieved?

ASSESSMENT

All the activities include the element of assessment although this is done in a natural and rather covert way without causing unnecessary stress. The communicative purpose itself needs to be fulfilled for the work process to be successful and for the final products to come out. The students will help each other and learn from each other. The teachers can take notes and write comments to discuss later in each class separately.

Moreover, for the activity that involves work from Literature, the questions and the crossword puzzle will also be used to assess the students' understanding and will be used by the teachers to provide feedback.

A final assessment in the form of a questionnaire, will be conducted via Google Forms, after the project finishes; students will answer questions that will show their understanding of the new concepts related to Democracy that they have learnt.