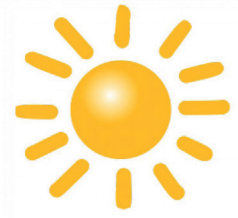


Activity:**FICHA 4**

"Reporting the air quality in my neighborhood"

**SUBJECT AREA: ENGLISH****Level: 6^o Grade**

Learning Strategy (LS): Reading comprehension	LS 6: Reading comprehension of general texts, such as notes, postcards, invitations, greeting cards, cooking instructions, recipes, directions, ads, e-mails, dialogues or texts, in order to identify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • text purpose • main ideas • background information • key words, commonly use expressions in English such as: have lunch, catch a cold and thematic vocabulary
Interdisciplinary Learning Objective (ILO):	ILO 2. Students should be able to show a positive attitude towards themselves and their potential in learning a new language.
Duration:	4 to 8 teaching hours.

Activity learning objective:

Show the impact of daily human activities on the city air quality by generating news texts in English.

Classroom Context:

These types of language strategies can be applied to students ranging in age from 8 years and older, allowing them to improve their reading and writing skills while learning each subject taught in the classroom.

Classroom Materials:

Camera (cell phone or other), computer access (Enlaces room) or clips from the student neighborhood, colored cardboards, English language newspapers (in print or online), English dictionary, internet.

Learning Purposes:

Generating texts such as newspapers can have a positive influence in developing languages skills and ideas expression. If they are taken from issues considered relevant by the students, the impact can be more profound. By applying this writing skill together with the English learning process the result will be the acquisition of new abilities such as generation of story ideas and their relationship with the world.

Classroom Planning:

Keep in mind that to put in practice this activity you need to do some previous work on the newspaper structure. You need to tell the students that they are reporters and that their objective is to carry out a research on the good or bad practices affecting the air quality in their neighborhood. (Provide them with the student guide).

Classroom Planning:

To consider: Before the activity begins you must go over the periodical structure and function. You need to state that a periodical has a clear purpose and that their report will reflect their view of reality and the corresponding problematic.

1. Before the activity begins, the teacher needs to explain the context and review the subjects learned in the classroom emphasizing how human activity has affected the environment, particularly those activities producing air pollution (you can go over online publications such as: "Clean air kids" <http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Doing-Your-Bit.pdf>)
2. The teacher explains how to write a report using video material at the Computer Room. You may visit the following website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hzcffb>
3. Teamwork is required to design the report in English. Tell the students to make groups of 4, indicating that they will be the reporters of the neighborhood periodical and that they will select a topic to write about.
4. Tell the students that their report will be published in the periodical "A Clean air community" (name of the periodical in which the students will write their report). The students will be able to choose from the topics to be dealt in the following edition, which are the following:
Topics: **a)** Pollution agents in my neighborhood, **b)** Children and air pollution, **c)** Community centers versus contaminant industry, **d)** Schools and clean air policies, **e)** Advertising about air quality, **f)** Air pollution agents in my neighborhood, **g)** Community involvement in air quality.
5. Hand out the guide to the students to inform them about the aims, guidelines, actions and report evaluation.
6. Tell the students that their report should be written about the selected topic and that they will need to research and gather as much information as possible from a field inspection in which the problematic is observed. Each student will contribute to the teamwork by performing different roles in the field: one will be responsible of taking photos, another will carry out a description of those photos, another will analyze the positive impacts of human activities, and another will describe the negative impacts affecting air quality.
7. Based on the information and evidence gathered in the field, the group will begin the design and writing of the news report first in Spanish and then the document will be translated into English with the assistance of an English dictionary, keeping in mind the text aim, general ideas, information gathered and photos.
8. Tell the class that once the translation is finished they will need to transfer the written material -if possible- either to a Power Point presentation to include the photographic material gathered by the students for the report, or they could use cardboards to make the information visible taking care of keeping a proper format.
9. Once the report is finished, the students will present their results and findings to the class allowing them to argue and discuss these findings with the rest of the students.
10. Allow enough time for discussion and feedback to reinforce those aspects that were correctly done and those requiring improvement, keeping in mind the relationship between the reports and the air quality issue affecting their neighborhood.
11. To evaluate this activity learning potential use and apply the assessment guideline to the students.



Student Guide

Dear reporter teams:

The neighborhood paper "A clean air community" is pleased to announce that the forthcoming edition will focus on environmental issues and the impacts on the quality of air. The chair meeting concluded that in order to bring closer the news to the Metropolitan Region inhabitants they could themselves report about the air pollution problems. It is believed that this strategy could let them find out the pros and cons of thousands of human actions, enterprises and community leaders.

Then, would you like to be part of our team or reporters?

Our periodical will be looking forward to publishing any report in our green pages.

Sincerely yours
News Editor

Guidelines: Tips to write a good report:

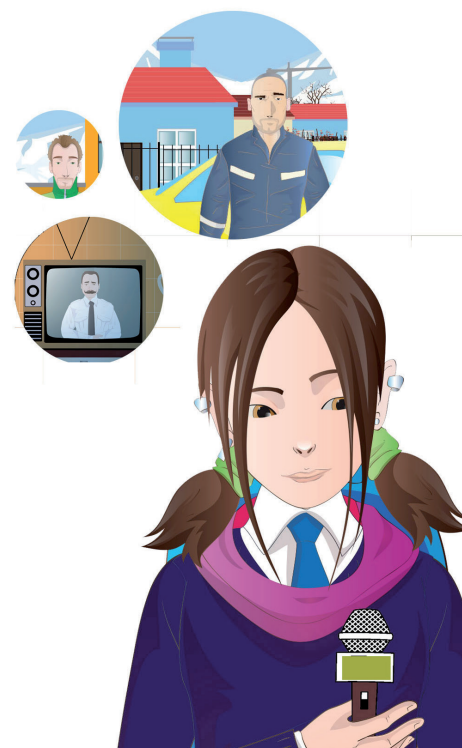
- 1) Choose 3 classmates to form a reporter team.
- 2) Prefer teamwork and decide jointly the research topic and roles of each reporter.
- 3) Visit a well-known place (it's best to choose the environmental topic from an area close to your daily route to school).
- 4) Each student will have a role in the field work which will enrich the team: one will be responsible of taking photos, another will carry out a description of those photos, another will analyze the positive impacts of human activities, and another will describe the negative impacts affecting air quality.
- 5) Make the report based on the research work. You could either use Power Point or make a cardboard presentation.

Keep in mind that every news report contains the following elements:

The aim of every news report is to captivate the reader attention by surprising him/her with well-written information. Remember that you are competing with many other periodicals and media whose objective is the same as yours.

- ✓ **Title:** must be brief, captivating and topic-related. (1 line)
- ✓ **Summary:** includes a summary of the principal information to let the reader know what to expect from the report or story. (2 lines)
- ✓ **Story Content:** the written text including main ideas, examples and photos presenting the required information. (3 - 6 lines)
- ✓ **Conclusion:** Clarifies the last part of the text and strengthen the main idea. (3 - 6 lines)

As reporters, your mission is to find key information and produce an impact on the reader. Go and find it.



iDare to report your neighborhood!

Evaluation guideline

News Report Assessment Guideline

Assessment Criteria		Not Achieved	Partly Achieved	Achieved
		0 pts.	2 pts.	3 pts.
Formal Aspects	English language is used to reinforce oral and written skills.			
	The English report follows its structure and objective.			
	The group writes the report using formal English language.			
Conceptual Aspects	The students selected the topic based on environmental elements showing beneficial or adverse air quality impacts in the neighborhood.			
	The report main ideas and concepts revolve around the air quality topic.			
	The written report is clearly related to the air quality topic.			
	The report shows adequate research skills and strategies for gathering information.			
	The students assess the relevance of producing information related to actions affecting the community air quality.			
Attitudinal Aspects	The students establish the importance of conducting research, debating and discussing ideas about environmental issues affecting them.			
	They discuss about the neighborhood air quality conditions and possible team efforts.			
	Their presentation demonstrates interest in the air quality topic and its impact on the neighborhood and the city.			
Total score				



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