

YOUR COUNTRY 1 & 2!

by **Lucas Kohnke**

American University of Afghanistan

lucaskohnke @ gmail.com

These two lesson plans “Your Country 1 & 2” were developed using Gilly Salmon’s 5 step model in creating e-tivities in mind. In this model, there are five steps to be followed.

1. Access and motivation: Learners will gain experience in using technology, use relevant and authentic tasks that they can relate to which will provide explicit motivation.
2. Socialization: Learners will get to know each other, and practice working together.
3. Information exchange: will enable learners to communicate information to each other, explain and clarify as well as to show to provide feedback to each other.
4. Knowledge construction: will allow learners to use real world context, encourage dialogue, criticism, debate and disagree.
5. Development: will allow learners to gain self insight, reflect and make judgment on the experience and the knowledge built. Learners will demonstrate their ability to work with content and defiant their own judgment.

Your Country 1!

Level: Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced

Time: 60 min

Aim:

- To gather information about their own country
- To learn to critically evaluate online materials
- To develop their web-searching skills
- To become familiar with posting photo’s and information on their blog

Resources/materials: Web browser & Blog. If no access to a blog, Ss can print out their information and share it with each other.

Possible problems: Slow internet connection, web-sites being censored (certain countries)

Before class:

1. Check computer lab(s)
2. Post a greeting message on each student's blog and/or their common class blog
3. Post a sample blog of what the Ss are expected to accomplish

Procedure

1. Pre-stage (10 min)

Step 1: Access and Motivation

Ss are told what will be covered and expected from them in today's lesson (*To find interesting and new information about their country, evaluate if the information is accurate or not. Find a photo that shows the new information they have found*).

2. While-stage (40 min)

- Ss log on to their blog and read the greeting message from their instructor.
- Ss examine a sample blog of what they are expected to create (*if one is available*).
- Ss begin to search for information from Google or any other search engine.

Step 2: Socialization

Ss post a photo and write comments (ask Ss to check spelling before posting as well as include links to the sites where they found the information for their classmates to click on later).

3. Post-stage (T – 60 min, S – 10 min)

Step 3: Information Exchange / Step 4: Knowledge Construction

- Each S is asked to read 2 or 3 of his/her fellow Ss' blog and try to write some comments about the photo and information given on them.
- The T writes brief individual comments on each S's blog in addition to a summary of today's activity on the class blog.

Step 5: Development

The S is asked to summarize what they have learned and evaluate how well they performed each activity.

Your Country 2!

Level: Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced

Time: 60 min

Aim:

- To be able to express themselves more confidently through writing
- To interact without inhibitions through writing

Resources/materials: Web browser & Blog

Possible problems: Slow internet connection, students may forget their web chat usernames and/or passwords

Before class:

- Check computer lab(s)
- Make sure all the students have access to a web-chat function

Procedure

1. Pre-stage (10 min)

Step 1: Access and Motivation

- Ss are told what will be covered and expected from them in today's lesson.
- Ss are divided into pairs

2. While-stage (25 min)

Step 2: Socialization / Step 3: Information Exchange

- Ss log onto a web chat
- Ss begin to chat about what they learned about their country and what they found interesting about their friends' comments.
- Ss are given a warning when time is nearly up so that they can round off their online discussions.

3. Post-stage (20 min)

Step 4: Knowledge Construction

Each S summarizes the information they learned from the conversations while chatting and post it on their blogs.

Step 5: Development

Each S is asked to present what they have learned to the class. Other class members are invited to ask questions, and S needs to answer and explain his/her viewpoints clearly.

References:

Salmon, Gilly (2006). *E-tivities, The Key to Active Online Learning*. Abingdon: Routledge Farmer.