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Student-Centered activities based on video activities

The article deals with teaching English using educational video. The article highlights some benefits and potential challenges associated with using video materials in the classroom during distance language training of the students.

To State the Purpose

An educational video is a film or movie with primary purpose to educate; they have been used as an alternative to the other teaching methods. Especially nowadays when distance learning English is becoming more common. According to a recent teacher survey, 94% of classroom teachers have effectively used video during the course of the last academic year. The teachers' aim is to get students in the learning process, and video is clearly a medium that generates a great amount of interest and enjoyment than the more traditional printed material. Using sight and sound, video is a perfect means for students; video stimulates and engages students to maintain the interest for longer period of time. Video provides the option to challenge students to predict the outcome of a demonstration, debate on the topic. The teacher also has the option to rewind a section of video to review the segment to ensure that students concentrate on a key concept.

How to Choose the Right Video

Before starting to use video for educational purposes, it is necessary to watch all the material to be shown to students beforehand, just in case there is any unnecessary or unsuitable content. By all means, the video should be chosen to provide more efficient assistance to learn English, it should relate to a specific topic and motivate students. Firstly, to debate, formulate questions, explain, or brainstorm during online class. Secondly, work in teams on the problems and projects, and, finally, learn the course material.

The Student-Centered Learning Activities

Let us quote Eli Johnson (2013) "student-centered learning puts students' interests first, acknowledging student voice as central to the learning experience. In a student-centered classroom, students choose what they will learn, how they will learn, and how they will assess their own learning". Working together in a student-centered class, students don't wait for instructions, words of approval, correction, or advice. They cannot ignore each other, but communicate with each other. Students cooperate, learn from each other, and help each other. When in doubt, they ask the teacher for help or advice but only after they have tried to solve the problem themselves.

For instance, students are involved to watch a short video clip and then to write questions about the clip. The fact that students are writing questions for

classmates tends to lead to formulate the best questions to compete with each other. A student-centered classroom is a place where we consider the needs of the students, as a group and as individuals, and encourage them to participate in the learning process all the time.

In a student-centered class based on video students can work both individually or in groups. When students work individually, they do listening tasks, grammar or vocabulary exercises themselves and develop ideas before a discussion. Working together in (mini)groups, they compare and discuss their answers, suggest their ideas, act in role-plays or share opinions. Also students interact with the teachers. Teachers make corrections, brainstorm ideas, give feedback or praise the students. To tell more about student-centered activities let us appeal to Leo Jones notes (2007), when students are working together in English, they tend to:

- talk more
- share students' ideas
- learn from each other
- be more involved
- feel more secure
- use English in a more realistic way
- enjoy communication in English.

Ted Talks Video Lesson for Distance Learning

Today Internet resources suggest a variety of techniques when using videos while distance learning, as Harmer mentioned “to awaken students’ curiosity”. One is more popular these days, TED TALK platform.

By integrating this activity into distance language class, students can improve their vocabulary, listening, note-taking and discussion skills. Learners can find a lot of videos related to topic they need to discuss. Each video is accompanied with authentic listening, questions to check up the comprehension, vocabulary tasks and items for discussion.

Conclusion

Watching TED talks will give a motivational boost to the students, it could inspire them to improve their speaking skills. Also make them confident in communication not only on professional topics but in everyday life.

References

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