A New Approach to English Language Learning Curriculum Design

Objectives
Create personally meaningful and supportive environments
Design learning experiences that offer choice and require action
Teach reading and writing skills to grade 9 students

Approach
Using Fink’s Taxonomy, in which learning goals, teaching and learning activities, and feedback and assessment are aligned, to design an integrated online blended learning experience.

Fink’s Taxonomy Of Significant Learning

Learning Objectives

- **Foundation Knowledge**
  - Students will identify text structure of narrative fiction.
  - Students will identify elements of a narrative fiction.

- **Application**
  - Students will analyze character’s motives.
    1. Why the characters act as they do.
    2. Students will analyze when the action peak or climax happens.

- **Integration**
  - Students will connect character’s motives and actions.
  - Students will make connections between characters and themselves.
  - Students will connect the selection to the unit theme(s) big idea.

- **Human Dimension**
  - Students will identify with the characters after understanding the motives behind their actions.
    a) Identify how the character feels
    b) Would you do the same thing as the character? How would you feel?

- **Cultural**
  - Students will value and respect other people’s struggles.

- **Learning How to Learn**
  - Students will engage in inquiry and construct knowledge about people.

Assessment Activities

- Reading comprehension questions about the plot
  1. Who are the characters?
  2. What are the main events in the pearl? For each event, identify its cause?
  3. Why does Kino stop in paragraph 20?
  Use the setting and situation to answer the question.

- Describe Juana’s personality
  1. Why does she refuse to see a doctor when she is sick?
  2. Why does she take Coyolito to the doctor?

- Reflect on meaning: In his introduction to the Pearl, John Steinback says, “If this is a parable, everyone takes his own meaning from it and reads his own life into it.” What meaning does the Pearl have for you?

- Students use wiki to debate which character’s Kino or Juana’s, actions led to the tragedy the family endured. The characters’ motives will be analyzed and evaluated.

- Students role play a trial scene to find the culprit.
  Students shoot the trial scene and post it on class blog.

- Pretend you are Kino or Juana and come up with a plan to help relieve the terrible situation the villagers are living in.

Learning Activities

- Students watch narrated power point explaining reading strategy.

- Students read an online version of the Pearl and answer assessment activities related to the reading strategy.

- Students watch a video/ recorded dialogue about characters’ motives and why characters act in a certain way.
  Students read and answer questions.

- Students watch a video explaining the form of reflective essay.

- A discussion about the motives that drive a character into action.

- Students watch a video about a real trial scene in a court room and get familiar with terms and procedures.

Criteria of “GOOD” Course Design

Claudia Hosten