Method: a photo story

Material: a camera, the Internet and a program to edit and put photos in a story,

a decision to make on: music, costumes, props

Age group: 13 - adult

Goal:

* expressing own opinion on a given topic (through a story)
* learning to work with multimedia to create the photo story
* learning to cooperate in internationally mixed groups
* becoming active in expressing own views
* proving oneself on language and social skills

Illustration:

1. A subject for a photo story is discussed:

-as a form of brainstorming

-as a question-answer round

-as a group analysis of source texts/films, etc.

This is meant to provide the group with ideas and inspiration. They are to choose what they want to present in their story

1. A method is discussed, i.e. what kind of materials to use? how to get/prepare it? What equipment to use? What equipment is available? which computer program would suit best? which ones are we familiar with?

The students are to research on possibilities of realizing the subject and make choices.

1. Group roles are divided. A leader/spokesperson is chosen.

Here everyone should know what he/she is supposed to do.

1. Time management is discussed.

A detailed plan appears on how to divide the workload within the time limits of the workshops.

1. Work continues:

* equipment and program is chosen, story characters are chosen, materials are prepared
* photos are taken
* photos are selected and edited in a computer programme of students choice
* music is decided on, speech bubbles/narrating subtitles are added

6. The group works on the photo story, supervised by a teacher.

Teacher leaders meet their group at certain stages of their work to discuss progress, difficulties, give advice and motivate.

Example:

1. A teacher tells students that their general topic for a story is friendship.
2. The students are asked to brainstorm the idea of friendship, it’s role and shape in today’s world.
3. The teacher asks students about what they think. Asks some additional questions or topic related questions that might not have been mentioned and could be worth considering. Students answer.
4. The teacher may also show them a film, an article, a book extract for consideration.
5. The teacher informs students that they are to choose one particular subject to present their views.
6. Students discuss it together.
7. The teacher asks students for their choice and sets questions for further consideration, i.e. what kind of materials to use? how to get/prepare it? What equipment to use? What equipment is available? which computer program would suit best? which ones are we familiar with?
8. The group goes through the questions making decisions on how they want to present their ideas.
9. The teacher asks students for their choices. Discusses together with the group any doubts and concerns they might have.
10. The teacher explains that in order to work efficiently, it's vital to divide the work and roles among the students. Asks the group to choose a group leader/spokesperson. He/she shortly explains what a leader/spokesperson role mean, what is expected from him.
11. The group diecides on a leader and tell the teacher.
12. The teacher again explains that time management is another thing worth thinking over. Organizing the groupwork within the time limit, setting a daily goal aids task realization.
13. Sudents work on their task, supervised by and occasionally meet together with the teacher to discuss progress, difficulties, give advice and motivate. The group spokesperson/leader is in charge and presents current work done to the teacher.

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-photos are taken

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14. Students agree on final presentation .