

Gefördert durch



Erasmus+
Schulbildung

**„Work in Progress-
students managing public relations projects“**

**How to conduct a debate:

air pollution in big cities**

Germany 23.11.-28.11.2017

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Thursday, 23th November 2017

Thursday was the arrival day. In the morning I went to school normally, but prepared at home everything for my exchange Partner, Francesca, from Italy.

The train from Italy should arrive at 9:06pm at the main station in Stuttgart, where the other two hosts of the italian exchange partners and I waited for them.

After saying „Hello“ and welcome them to Germany we went by train back home to unpack their stuff and then go to sleep.

Friday, 24th November 2017

The first day started quite early for us, because we had to be at school at 7:45am.

There, I showed Francesca the main things and brought her to the Auditorium, where all exchange students from all the countries (Finland, Estonia, Italy) and the Germans were welcomed by our Headmaster, while I was writing my music test.

They got a short overview over the programme for the next five days and then were guided through our school and introduced to the project work.

When I came there, at 9:15am, the students from the 12th grade, which took part in the Erasmus project the last time, were showing us a model debate about the use of social media.

As the debate was finished we got divided in our project teams.

My team was the „GIFE Team“ (German, Italian, Finland, Estonia), which consisted of Aapeli (Finland), Ken (Estonia), Francesca (Italy) and Jana, Hannah and me from Germany.

Until 12:00am we had some debating workshops, which helped us to get to know each other, starting to use arguments and debate a bit about different subjects, as well as just using English as the basic language.

In our lunch break we enjoyed our meal and were talking a lot with different people from the different countries.

After lunch we had a sports session in which we played different games in our project teams. Again this helped us to get to know the other team members better and to do something as a team.

Then we had some time for preparing the debate on Tuesday. We thought about our subject „This House wants to ban cars from city centres“ (Proposition) and created our project plan. Then we started to think about arguments and examples for our debating.

Here are the first notes:

- air pollution is caused by cars
- traffic jams, accidents, high volume level
- use of public transport instead

In the last hour we listened to a presentation from the OK Lab, which heading was „How to make our cities more breathable“. Lukas presented there an invention from the OK Lab which costs less than 30 euros and can be put anywhere to measure the air quality and how many fine particles are in it.

From this presentation we got another point we could use for our debate: Lukas showed us a picture and explained us that the more dust and fine particles are in the air, the more people got ill.

Until Monday we wanted to collect more arguments and examples, with the help of the visit of the Mercedes Benz Museum, visiting the TV Tower and playing our Mr. X game.

So far our team work was going quite good, we did the things together, not just one person did all the work and it was no problem to understand and listen to each other and what they wanted to say.

To be honest, I didn't expect this day to be as good as it was and I thought it would be much more difficult to do things together with a team which members I saw in the morning for the first time.

In terms of project work I learnt this day, that it was really fun and quite easy to work together with people I have never seen before. I also learnt that it was really great because we all were motivated and wanted to do and to reach something.

Saturday, 25th November 2017

This second day was all about activities showing us the problems all around Stuttgart and its air pollution.

For visiting the Mercedes Benz Museum we met at 8:45am at the bus station to drive there. At the museum we walked around with some people and talked a lot, but also looked at the cars and saw how big their impact on Stuttgart is. But the museum showed not only the history of Stuttgart and its cars, but also the cars today and some cars which are electric or hybrid and could be seen as a solution for the future.

For our debating this meant that in a city like Stuttgart it is really difficult to ban the cars from the city centre because we had seen how important the car industry for Stuttgart was in the past and still is. That meant for us that we had to think about really good arguments because we all could agree in this point, that banning cars from city centres in Stuttgart would destroy our car industry.

According to the bad weather we didn't go to the TV Tower because the clouds made it impossible to see the position of Stuttgart in the basin.

Instead we started to play the Mr. X game.

In this game we were playing in our project teams. One team was the Mr. X and got ten minutes to go by train or bus wherever they wanted while the other teams tried to answer the questions we got:

1. Where is the dirtiest crossing in Stuttgart?
- The Stuttgarter Neckartor.
2. What is the „Erbschleicherexpress“? Where is it?
- It is a cog railway, connecting Heselach and Degerloch.
3. How long does the VVS exist?
- Since the 22th December 1977.
4. Which one is the oldest tunnel? Which parts of the city is it connecting?
- The Schwabtunnel, it connects the South and the West parts of Stuttgart.
5. Which Highways lead to Stuttgart?
- A8, A81, B10, B14, B27, B295
6. Which one is the youngest tunnel? Which one is build at the moment?
- The Scheibengipfeltunnel is the youngest one, the Rosensteintunnel is build at the moment.
7. How many people were „transported“ by the VVS in 2016?
- About 400 Million
8. Which new things are build in this days?
- Stuttgart 21, the new main station.

Then we started to „hunt“ Mr. X. All other teams were trying to catch the Mr. X team by train and buses. To know where Mr. X was, he posted every ten minutes his train or bus line and the direction in a WhatsApp Group Chat.

We connected this game with a little sight seeing and took the cog railway to drive to Degerloch, which was one of our for stations we should go.

Finally our team caught the Mr. X group which ended the game and we drove back to the main station.

The game was thought to show us the good and the bad sides of the public transport in Stuttgart, but we just experienced the good ones: Our trains were always punctual, we never had to wait more than 15 minutes and on every station was another train we could take.

For our debate was this experience really important because we had found a really good example that public transport was a good alternative for us and everything worked well.

For our team was the whole day really good, because we found new things which helped us preparing the debate and the Mr. X game helped us to work better together as a team.

The only problem was that all the papers we needed for the Mr. X game were written in German and we often hadn't the time to translate anything well. This was a problem because we three Germans often talked in German the things we had to discuss fast, for example on which station we needed to get off the train. Then the other team members couldn't understand us, which was not that good because we couldn't decide as a team and it was quickly boring for those who couldn't understand us.

To solve this problem we tried to speak and discuss this important things during the game in English but as soon there was too less time for that we started to talk in German again.

All in all this day was a great day because we now got to know each other quite good which really helped us in working as a team.

After the game was finished Francesca and I stayed with some other people in Stuttgart to shop some souvenirs and clothes they could bring home.

Then Joy, Melissa, Francesca and I sat in the Starbucks to drink a hot chocolate and to do something better than just hanging around at home.

For dinner we went home and in the evening we went to Henriette to meet some other exchange students and playing games with them.

This activities after the school programme were great because we not just made friends with our project group team members but with all the people who came to Germany to be part in this project.

Sunday, 26th November 2017

Sunday was the day without any school programme, a day in the host families and a day for working something on our own on our project.

In the morning we created a WhatsApp Group Chat for our „GIFE Group“ so that we could exchange our arguments and examples and talk about our debate.

Then Francesca and I went to the Waldau to the ice skating hall together with Johannes and Giovanni and Henriette and Katja. We had a great time there and learned that we could trust each other.

Especially for Francesca and me it was great because she was never ice skating before which means that I helped her. Together we managed it and finally she learned how to ice skate and could do it nearly alone.

When we came back we started watching „Pirates of the Caribbean“ Part 3 until my grandparents came for a visit. Together with them we ate some apple cake and „Hefezopf“ and told them about our project: what we did and what we are going to do.

At 5:30pm we drove together with Julia and Ella to the bowling hall where Jana booked three bowling lanes and most people who took part in the project came there to play bowling with all the others and to have a great time.

This evening was great because we had lots of fun with all the other people from all the countries and we talked and laughed with people not just from our project team but with all. Additionally we played in our project teams so that we could use this time for exchanging and discussing our information about the debate too.

According to the project plan we had the day for looking and collecting new arguments and examples which we wanted to discuss and structure on Monday. In this point our team work was going very well because we really had some arguments and examples we only needed to structure and then writing the speeches which were based on these arguments.

Monday, 27th November 2017

Monday was our last day before the debate.

In the morning all Germans had school as usually and the exchange students met the Lord Mayor Bolay at the „Klosterhof Nellingen“. Then they got a guided tour through Stuttgart with the focus on air pollution and its solutions in the city centre.

Because Hannah and I had some freetime after our lessons and before the exchange students came back, we started collecting all the arguments and examples from our WhatsApp Group Chat and wrote them on a sheet of paper.

Then we had another lesson and after that, when the exchange students were back we sat together in our team discussing our arguments and examples and structuring them for the debate.

The following arguments were our main ones:

Cars should be banned from city centres because

argument	example
- reducing fine particles → good for health, old buildings → cars cause them!	- Presentation on Monday: more particles → more illness - life expectancy sinks: 8.6 months less in the EU
- no streets: more space → park areas → city gets a „green lung“	- plants do photosynthesis: CO ₂ → O ₂ → means fresh air
- reducing accidents	- most dangerous means of transport: by car: per one billion kilometres 276 accidents by train: per one billion kilometres 2.7 accidents - summer 2016: terrorist attack: 19 tonne cargo truck drove into a crowd: 86 deaths, 458 injured
- high volume level → no cars: quiet → attractive for residents	- WHO: 50 000 heart attacks and 200 000 cardiovascular diseases → caused by too loud traffic
- traffic jams → long time to travel → expensive parking, no space	- trip to city centre would take 25 minutes, but it actually takes much more time (going by public transport is faster and more reliable)
- no need to drive: → good public transport! → important things outside city centre → clean air!	- Mr. X game: public transport worked really well

In the next hour we decided who would speak at the debate (Ken as the first speaker, Jana the second one and me the third one and then Ken doing the replying speech) and then prepared our speeches.

At 5:00pm we went to the school kitchen to bake some German christmas cookies which everyone enjoyed.

Tuesday, 28th November 2017

Tuesday was our last project day.

Before starting the the debates we had another hour to prepare it. We used the time for correcting some mistakes, writing our final speeches and practised them.

Then we watched the other two teams who were debating about „This House wants clean air to be a human right“.

After this it was our turn to debate about our topic „This House wants to ban cars from city centres“.

The last team presented the brochure they made about our whole project.

To eat something for lunch we all went together and later back home to pack the stuff for the departure on Wednesday.

In the evening, as one of our highlight activities, we went to the Christmas Market in Esslingen where we saw some of the Estonian exchange students for the last time before they left Germany.

To the rest of the exchange students we could say „Goodbye“ on Wednesday at school.

Evaluation / What else I want to say

The whole project showed me how project work could work perfectly.

The activities on every day helped us very much to prepare our debates and collect information for our arguments and examples. But they were also important because we got to know all the people better and especially the group members of our project team.

Every day we became more friends so that on wednesday it was really difficult to say „Goodbye“ to all the awesome people who took part in this project.

For me it was a great experience because the project work was the main point why we met and did all the activities but we also had a really great time with lots of fun and enjoyed every single day of this project.

I loved seeing how our project work developed so that we were able to debate about our topic at the end of this five days.

Finally, I want to thank all the teachers and persons who made it possible that we could have such a great time and learned a lot of new and interesting things about the topic of air pollution which affects our everyday life.

It was a pleasure for me to take part in this project.