

INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

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Why?

- ▣ What are the goals of language education at the college level?
- ▣ Why is it good to learn a foreign language?
- ▣ What are foreign language knowledge and skills good for?

To Whom?

- ▣ Who are our students?
- ▣ Who would they be when they graduate?
- ▣ What would we expect them to do with what they've learned?

Inquiry-Based Learning

- ▣ Definition:
 - Students engage in inquiry projects that are meaningful to them
 - These inquiry projects should relate to students' interests
 - Inquiry process is shared between students and instructor
 - Process is shared, results vary

The Three-Phased Model

- ▣ Phase One – What we Know and What we Want to Learn
 - Instructor generates an overarching theme for the class
 - Students reflect upon their knowledge / understanding of the topic
 - Brainstorm knowledge and ideas and develop a concept map
 - Write a research proposal

The Three-Phased Model

- ▣ Phase Two – Conduct Research
 - Read articles, government reports, fiction etc.
 - Watch audio-visual representations (tv, youtube etc.)
 - Conduct interviews
 - Speak to specialists
 - Share and present sources continuously

The Three-Phased Model

- ▣ Phase Three – Representation and Dissemination
 - Write a paper about the project, using the sources generated throughout the course
 - Present the project in class
 - Poster presentation

Benefits of the Inquiry-Based Approach

- ▣ For students:
 - Students work at varying levels of independence
 - Students' interests lead the inquiry
 - Students develop a specialized vocabulary and become specialists in the classroom
 - Students are empowered to utilize their language skills to inform themselves and others
 - A marketable skill

Benefits of the Inquiry-Based Approach

- ▣ For the instructor
 - Individualized instruction
 - Gets to learn new things from the students and their projects
 - Gets to know the students
 - Every class is new and challenging in different ways

Challenges of Inquiry-Based Learning

- ▣ How do we prepare students?
 - What happens if they're not prepared?
- ▣ How do we evaluate?
 - Qualitative Evaluation
 - ▣ Involvement
 - ▣ Challenge
 - ▣ Depth
 - ▣ Rigor
 - ▣ Growth

Questions / Comments?

Resources

- ▣ <http://projectapproach.org/>
- ▣ Katz, L. G. & Chard, S. C. (2014). *Engaging children's minds: The project approach (3rd edition)*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.
- ▣ <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v8n2/clark.html>
- ▣ <http://www.worksheetlibrary.com/teachingtips/inquiry.html>