

Humanising Language Teaching

Enhancing English Language Learning with Google Arts & Culture

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Abstract

This article explores the integration of Google Arts & Culture into English language instruction to enhance students' language skills and cultural awareness. It outlines classroom activities such as narrative and non-fiction writing, virtual museum reports, reading comprehension exercises, and group discussions. These activities promote language proficiency while encouraging collaboration, deeper cultural exploration, and critical thinking.

Introduction

In language learning, exposing students to cultural elements is critical for fostering a deeper understanding of the language and its contexts. Cultural knowledge supports communication by providing context for language use, making it more meaningful and effective. As Shen (2011) points out, linguistic proficiency alone is not enough for successful intercultural communication. Students must also grasp the cultural nuances that influence language use in various cultural contexts.

Moreover, incorporating cultural content can increase emotional engagement and motivation among learners into language instruction can significantly enhance students' motivation and engagement. According to Porter et al. (2022), interacting with cultural artifacts and authentic content in the target language helps learners form personal connections to the content, which, in turn, increases their motivation to use the language actively. This intrinsic motivation plays a critical role in the long-term success of language learning, as students are more likely to sustain their efforts when the material is both interesting and relevant to them.

The use of digital platforms in language learning greatly enhances access to cultural content, making it more interactive and engaging for students. As Wani et al. (2019) highlight, platforms like Google Arts & Culture play a role in preserving art and cultural heritage digitally. Such platforms

By combining language practice with teamwork and strategic thinking, the game makes learning enjoyable and effective, helping students improve both their language and collaboration skills.

Conclusion

Incorporating Google Arts & Culture into English language instruction provides a valuable opportunity to enhance students' language skills while fostering cultural awareness. By using the platform's wide range of content, teachers can create engaging learning experiences that support vocabulary development, reading comprehension, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. The classroom activities presented in this article show how Google Arts & Culture can be smoothly integrated into lessons, making language learning more dynamic, interactive, and relevant to students' personal and cultural interests.

Activities such as narrative writing, virtual museum reports, reading comprehension exercises, and both creative and non-fiction writing tasks expose students to language and cultural content in ways that spark curiosity and engagement. Additionally, the Learning Journal and interactive group discussions, like those using the "Forever Labyrinth" game, promote collaboration, independent learning, and deeper reflection on both language and culture.

Ultimately, using Google Arts & Culture not only helps students develop essential language skills but also encourages them to explore diverse cultural perspectives, broadening their understanding of the world. This integration of digital platforms into English language teaching enhances both the educational experience and the personal growth of learners.

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