

Research Project

Summary

This activity introduces a particular religious tradition, starting from the previous knowledge of the students and their points of interest. Students work collaboratively to develop their research projects and present their findings to the class.

Pupils reflect on their own values and cultural assumptions and increase their intercultural competence.

The activity includes two lessons and two homework assignments.

Description of the activity

First session:

1. Introduce the topic briefly. Clarify that you will devote a couple of lessons and homework assignments on a particular religious tradition (ex. Islam).
2. Encourage the students to raise questions about this tradition. Write down as many as possible on the whiteboard.
3. Form teams of 4-5 students. Each team should have its own workspace in the classroom.
4. Pupils discuss the questions that interest them in their groups. The task of each team is to choose two of the questions that they would like to address and to record their initial answers. This becomes their hypothesis.
5. Explain that each team will base their research project around these hypotheses. Instruct the pupils to use the rest of the time to choose methods of inquiry, map needed resources and assign tasks to team members. You can also make a few suggestions like contacting local religious community members or focusing on a particular case study.
6. At the end of the lesson each team presents their initial hypotheses, research methods and individual tasks. A clear deadline for completion is set by the teacher.

Second session:

7. On the set date each team presents their findings to the class. Other students can ask them questions or make constructive comments. The teacher acts as a moderator and time keeper, ensuring equal time is given to each team. You can also mark key points on the whiteboard and make a concise summary at the end of the session.
8. As a final homework assignment, ask the students to write reports addressing their learning process and findings. They should include analysis and reevaluation of their initial hypotheses, research methods and learning materials. What have they learned from their groupwork and from the presentations of the other teams? How does that affect their view of the examined religious tradition?





Project Number: 2017-1-IT02-KA201-036784

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** in class and at home.
- **Resources needed:** none.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** 12-30.
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** unspecified.
- **Activity duration:** two 45 min. sessions and two homework assignments.

Learning Objectives

Students will be engaged in cooperative learning and teamwork. They will have the opportunity to investigate questions that interest them, debate and take responsibility for their own learning and opinions.

Expected Outcomes

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of religious traditions and increase their intercultural competence. They will learn how to do research – forming hypotheses, planning in advance, gathering information and analyzing their findings.

Target group

Students of 14-18 years of age.

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

History
Literature
Philosophy
Social studies

Learning objects to be used with this activity

Student assignments



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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