Using mass media materials in esp classroom

Mass media provides excellent authentic resources for learning English. The media materials can be used to enhance reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Using newspapers, radio and TV programs, the Internet materials also expands vocabulary and the knowledge of grammar.

The materials for classroom should be socially important, current and interesting so that to allow capturing students’ attention, developing expertise in reflecting their ideas, justifying their responses.

There are vast fields for teachers’ creativity in the lessons development which can be built up either on different materials from different media and aimed at different skills development or based on one newspaper article only. Materials can be proposed by the teacher or prepared by students as a home task. Special news vocabulary and grammar can be pre-taught or being developed at the lesson. The materials can be read, listened to, viewed, discussed, worked out in small groups etc. Students even may try to write their own newspaper articles, letters to the editor, compose interviews, create newspapers.

For example, the following steps can be suggested for writing a new story based on a current event: 1) Topics brainstorming. 2) Possible structure of a paper: What is the event? When did/will it happen? Who participated/will participate? Where did/will the event take place? How… questions depending on the topic; Why did/will the event take place? Then – questions on results, influence, conclusions. 3) Writing preliminary notes. 4) Writing stories. 5) Stories can be read, displayed, discussed, compared, and even published in a class newspaper.

Using a wide variety of media materials in ESP classroom gives a real chance to develop students’ skills. Along with language learning students can develop their general knowledge, mental outlook, features of well-informed, effective, and responsible citizens.