

### **Using project work for teaching english**

The aim of the Project work is to develop in learners such qualities as confidence, initiative and responsibility. The following steps are adapted from Diana Fried-Booth in her book *Project Work* (OUP 1986).

1. Stimulus. Doing some kind of speaking activity, or reading and speaking, to stimulate interest in the project.
2. Definition of the project objective. Discussing and negotiating what the students will achieve exactly with this project.
3. Skills work. If the project involves data collection or writing up, then this stage could be to prepare them with the language they need for that.
4. Design of materials. Questionnaires, maps, grids for data collection. These can be made together in class.
5. Group activities. This is actually when they go and do the project.
6. Collecting information. Reading and discussing what was found out.
7. Organization of materials. Designing the final product again, perhaps in class.
8. Final presentation.

Some *advantages* of project work are:

Increased motivation, all four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – are integrated, autonomous learning is promoted, there are learning outcomes – learners have the final product, authentic tasks, interpersonal relations are developed, content and methodology can be decided between the learners and the teacher, learners often get help from parents for project work, thus parents become more involved in the child's learning.

Some possible *drawbacks* of project work:

Learners use their own language, some learners do nothing, different groups work at different speed.

Project work must rank as one of the most exciting teaching methodologies a teacher can use. It truly combines in practice both the fundamental principles of a communicative approach to language teaching and the values of good education.