Enhance Students’ Engagement and Critical Thinking

VIA RESEARCH PROJECTS AND EXPOSURE TO SOCIAL MEDIA

PRESENTER
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INFORM CONFERENCE 2019
Today’s Agenda

- Background and Issues
- Design of Curriculum (Assessment)
- Exposure to Social Media
- Q & A
Background

- EAP Modules at XJTLU
- Pathway & Gateway in assisting 2+2 students adapt to study in Liverpool
- To extend students’ discipline-specific English language and study skills
- An emphasis on critical thinking and students’ engagement
Issues

• Attendance Issue
• Mobile Phone Addiction
• Students’ Engagement & Critical Thinking
• Any more…..
Students’ Engagement

Students’ Engagement

Students’ Learning style

Great effects on Ss’ academic performance & personal development (Gunuc and Kuzu, 2015).

Class attendance, participation

EAP Teaching

Passive learner
Teacher-centred (Yin, Lu & Wang 2014)
Critical Thinking

Making reasoned judgments that are logical and well-thought out.

(DeLecce, 2018).
Critical Thinking

Three core skills:

- Curiosity
- Skepticism
- Humility
What can be done?

- EAP Modules VS Other Modules (ESL, ESP, EAPP, Etc.)
- General English VS Academic English
- Ultimate Goal of Language Study---WHAT
- Passive Learners
- HOW to bridge the gap?
Research-led Teaching:
- Curriculum is structured around subject content; it encourages students to engage with research.

Students’ Centered
Emphasis is shifted to research process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework 1 (10%)</th>
<th>Coursework 2 (15%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing and evaluating solutions to built-environment related problems from a site</td>
<td>Bidding for a built-environment related project with competitors</td>
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**Sites:**
- XJTLU South Campus
- Suzhou Centre
- Time Square (Shin Kong Place)

**Projects:**
- XJTLU Foundation Building
- Walkable City in Jakarta
- Ground-scraper University in Oman
- Water Reuse in Lagos
Design of Curriculum

**Bloom’s Taxonomy**

Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Evaluation
- Synthesis
- Analysis
- Application
- Comprehension
- Knowledge

Lower Order Thinking Skills

Students choose a group project.

Students research on solutions.

Students identify problems.

Students choose a group project.

Students evaluate their own and the competitors’ solutions.

CW1

CW2
Design of Curriculum

Students form groups to conduct research on built-environment related projects.

Analysis + Reflection
Critical Thinking, Analytical Skills

- XJTLU-South Campus
- Suzhou Centre

Issues
Solutions
Evaluation
Coursework 2

Research Skills

Group Work
- Retrofitting Foundation Building
- Walkable City in Jakarta
Coursework 2

Indonesian Holiday Resort

Introduction:
The travel and tourism industry has created the majority of GDP in Indonesia. At the same time, it is a potential way to increase the revenue of the governments.

Solution 1:

Considering that there are thousands of abandoned mines in Indonesia (Ministry, 2015), we can solve the economic problem. Like the hotel already built in Shanghai, which is built in an abandoned coal mine (Shanghai, 2016), our resort can also be built in an abandoned mine.

This scheme could dramatically reduce the price of land purchase, and at the same time, it can repair the damaged environment. Moreover, the hotel in Shanghai took 10 years to complete. It may need decades to construct a resort.

Conclusion:

- To sum up, our group has put up with two solutions in this proposal. Firstly, building the resort in an abandoned mine for reducing the cost of construction. The second solution is reconstructing existing local residents and building homestay hotel which can reduce the investment and improve the environment of local residents.

Solution 2:

The construction and development of resorts should retain the local geomorphological characteristics. Indonesia’s environment and local residents’ lifestyle are important factors in attracting tourists to experience beach and rainforest life.

Therefore, the government has promised to build 10 new destinations as the “10 New Banyun” project area. The government expects to get a good economic return on the investment. The Banyun resort group is aimed to design one of the resorts in Lombok Bajo. This location is selected by our group has beautiful natural scenery. Besides, the main attraction in this area is the extraordinary marine life.

Method (3 parts):

Part 1: Homestay area
Local residents could rent their homes to visitors for living in homestay area.

Location:
Homestay area is in the northwest of this beach and occupies about 500-meter coastline and the land behind this coastline.

Appearance:
Referring to characteristic houses in Toraja, around 500 to 600 similar houses are placed in homestay area. This kind of house has a boat-like roof and is gable-styled. Gable-styled buildings are supported by wooden columns, and ground floor is above the ground.

Material:
1. Anti-corrosion wood is used as the main body of houses
2. Banana leaf is used to decorate the roof and prevent rain

Feasibility:

- The government has began to resolve the problem about abandoned mines.
- This resort would improve the quality of local resident and bring economic benefits to the city. And provide many jobs to local residents.
- Retrofitting can save cost and reduce pollution.

Part 2: Hotel area
As the major architecture, the resort hotel is designed an attractive appearance to be conspicuous over the island. To improve the utilization of the sand-beach, a basketball court and a beach volleyball court will be constructed around the hotel.

Material:
- To reduce the negative impacts on environment, concrete could be less used in constructing the resort hotel. Moreover, brick and wooden materials would be mainly applied. Waterproof materials would be used into constructing a public safety pool.
- Stakeholders:
  - Independent tour (individuals or house holds), business traveler, group tour.

Part 3: Villa cluster
Location: South-east of the whole beach area

Layout:
Villa area is on the tip of the beach and open space within. Areas of a villa area: 216.741.16 m²

Area of a tree house is determined by the tree size which is generally less than 250 m²

Areas of a bamboo villa around 230 m²

Appearance:
Freestanding

Material:
Wood and bamboo, brick and wooden materials are used, growing fast, durable, flexible, cost-effective, sustainable.

Feasibility:

1. Economy: various kinds of living buildings such as hotel, villas, homestay and tree house could improve residents and local tourism revenue.
2. Environment: sustainable building materials could make villas more environment-friendly and open space would provide attractiveness for various species alive.
3. Culture: homestay area would improve communication between residents and local, so it could be beneficial for culture exchange and local culture output.

Reference list:

Coursework 2

Introduction
As an architecture engineering company, YWZ AEng Design Co. was invited to participate in the renovation project for the bidding city of Jakarta. Now YWZ AEng Design Co. is competing with LCL Co. for bidding projects and attempting to win the bid.

Jakarta, as the capital of Indonesia, has the largest area and population in the country. However, Jakarta’s poor traffic conditions and road environment make it almost impossible for people to choose to walk. In order to solve this problem, YWZ AEng Design proposed two implementation plans in the project:
1. Promoting presence and quality of footpaths and pedestrian streets.
2. Close some streets having narrow sidewalks and transform them into those that are more walkable.

Solution 1
Object:
To achieve the goals that make Jakarta more walkable, gain economic benefits and bring positive effects to the environment.

Method:
Step 1: Reconstruct the streets which have narrow sidewalks and curbside for parking. by creating roundabouts and adding vegetation.
Case study example: Roundabout setting in the Washington state.

Solution 2
Object:
To increase the walkability of Jakarta and to improve people’s walking environment. An effective solution is to promote presence and quality of footpaths and pedestrian streets. Due to the huge area of Jakarta, it is not realistic to improve every street. Therefore, the project will concentrate on the 10 most popular streets in Jakarta. These streets are usually connected to the famous attractions of Jakarta and have a huge flow of people. The specific measures are to repair tiles and redraw all kinds of ground signs to make them clearer. Also, bike tracks and sidewalk widths have to be added if necessary.

Result:
- Not only reduce delays and traffic congestion, but also show more consideration to the environment.
- Help to improve pedestrians’ safety.

Successful case study
This solution has been implemented and successfully improved in many countries. For instance, Seoul’s project had connected the tourist attractions of Seoul with a large number of visitors and many tourists fishing on the tram, and the road is good for walking by improving the pedestrian environment. In Paris, you can walk from one end of Paris to the other in less than two hours. New York’s pedestrian paradises combine safety, beauty, and comfort. The narrow streets of Fes el Bali in Morocco are believed to make up the world’s biggest car-free zone.

Reference:
*Literature 1 (2014): “Where is the world’s most walkable city?” The Soldier, 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**SOLUTION 1: Add GREENING & VEGETABLE**

**REASON**
From the research of Jakarta’s recent walkable condition, the problem of motorcycles occupying the sidewalks is one of the most important factors that hinder the walkability.

**METHOD**
In order to avoid motorcycle occupying the sidewalks, as motorcycles are less flexible than walking people. Thus our group suggest that barrier can be set between pavement and lane, and long garden with bushes could be an appropriate choice. Because the nature strip can not only play the role of barrier, but also create a more aesthetic walking environment.

**SOLUTION 2: Reorganize the road network**

**REASON**
The research indicates that the average accepting walking distance is 400-500 meters.

**METHOD**
The research indicates that the average accepting walking distance is 400-500 meters. People’s experience define a city whether it is walkable or not. Thus, the transit modes have to be connected seamlessly to providing people a comfortable experience. Southworth (2006) thinks a highly walkable city attracts people walking via a complete connected network, which available to each place pedestrian would like to go without physical obstacle. The research shows that average accepting walking distance is about 400-500 meters. Thus, the distance from the bus stops to buildings or public space should less than it. The range of walking distance should almost cover the city. Achieving the goal, we should increasing the bus route and reorganize the bus stops reasonably.

**FEASIBILITY:**

**SOLUTION 1**
Cost: Road verge with items of shrub, hardwood and weed control is estimated to $1.612/acre. To widespread use the proposal, the entirely cost will be estimated to $91,976 if the verge with 50 centimeters width is built at all the bus rapid transit routes.
Extra requirement: To keep the nature strip in a good condition, the gardeners is necessary to take care of the plants.

**SOLUTION 2**
Cost: government should increase the bus routes and bus stops. They have to pay for the bus drivers and maintain the bus stops. The cost is much less than construct a new transport system.
Degree of difficulty: in comparison, adding a series of bus routes and bus stops do not needs any construction technology. It needs some manpower to drive the bus or manage the bus stops.
Contribution: Providing people a convenient travel experience, especially for walking. Pedestrians do not have to walk so far to get their destination any more, "last mile" issue was solved.
Exposure to social Media

Social Media

*Evolution*:
- Weblog
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Smart phone
- Apps/We Chat

(Beare, 2018)
Exposure to social Media

The Prevailing of Mobile Phones

92% of students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal regard it easier to use mobile device to improve their access to information. (Adeboye, 2016)

Chinese students have high motivations in using mobile devices for EFL learning (Zou & Yan, 2014).

What can be done?
Exposure to social Media

**Useful social media apps:**

*Sixth Tone, CHINADAILY, Shanghaiist, GuideinChina, SHurbanfamily, NineShanghai ThatsSuzhou, HangzhouExpat, IICofficial, CHINA PLUS, iSuzhou, KunmingExpats.*

[http://English.eastday.com](http://English.eastday.com)
Exposure to Social Media

*Students read from social media out of class*

A lead-in activity (5-8min)

- Students give a mini group presentation
- Q-A session (peers)
- Summary (Tutor)
Students’ Presentations

- Confidence in public speaking
- Cooperation among fellow students
Students’ Presentations

- Inter-cultural awareness
- Critical Thinking
Students’ Presentations

- Independent Learning
- Creativity and subject knowledge

“ABC BUILDING” by Wise Architecture

- Start with bricks on the ground
- Load-bearing structure
- Middle part: brick wall fabrication
- Supported by steel frames
- Light effect: gap among the bricks
Other considerations

- Use our Powerful Moodle--**XJTLU ICE** to create discussion forums

- Use **Padlet** to engage students (keep reading logs)
  Make it **enjoyable and competitive**
  [https://padlet.com/joanne5014](https://padlet.com/joanne5014)

- Organize debates in class.
- Authentic materials (**PARSNIPS**)
- Creative, interesting tasks in class
Other considerations

Examples of engaging tasks

- What makes you happy? Come up with some ideas

- Come up with 5 questions to test how happy people are.
  1,
  2,
  3,
  4,
  5.
Other considerations

Examples of engaging tasks

➢ Students asked to generate some words under the following heading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living creature</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito</td>
<td>Table</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ Students are given the following structure.

If I were a ________ I would ________

They are given a semantic constraint.

e.g. Use the words they have generated and the structure above to express their love/anger/jealousy to somebody.
1. favorite movie: Brokeback Mountain
2. favorite singer: Michael Bublé
3. only and always 16 years old
4. I can play drum
5. love

1. I am not a boring guy.
2. like watching TV drama and singing
3. I lost a lot of weights a year ago
4. like traveling all over the world
5. I am good at dealing with problems at most times

Favorite player: LeBron
Enjoy cutting class
Enjoy sleeping so much

I enjoy guitar playing so much
Always be late for EAP
Like Jay Chou best

like playing games
(wangzherongyao)
love exercising!
plan to go to Bali!!
Always be afraid of weigh much higher

1. favorite
2. favorite

1. Crazy love fitness and went to gym since 7 years ago;
2. Will be in front of the Great Pyramids in two weeks;
3. can make the most delicious salad and sandwiches in the world;
4. enjoy sunshine and really want to tanning myself

1.

1. believe that I am a genius
2. Love eating but have to keep fit
3. I like most girls in our class
4.

1. My favorite singer is Zhangxuan
2. I like dancing and singing.
3. I have a dog
4. I have a hamster
5. I want to go to Japan
Debate in class (Critical thinking)

Discussion Forums on ICE
Future consideration

*Would* you like to apply it in your class?

*How* would you like to apply it?

*What* might be the challenges and restraints?
References


Thank you. Any questions?

Please feel free to contact me by Ningjuan.wang@xjtlu.edu.cn.