

Teaching Language through Current Events and Games by Anjali Sabnani, Akanksha Foundation

Anjali Sabnani elucidates the importance of taking the world into classrooms and demonstrates how newspapers form an effective tool to do the same. She comes up with ways to introduce newspapers in the classroom and to improve the language skills of students.

Concrete Strategies I walked away with:

Fun Games to Introduce Newspapers in the Classroom (*preferably in the same order*):

- Scavenger hunt for words
- Everyday open-newspaper quiz
- Distinguishing between types of news (regional, national, international, sports, business, etc)
- Finding all the Wh-questions from the first few lines of an article

Teachers should know what is important for the students. We must remember to keep the information simple by making obvious connections between happenings (Eg. Great Depression followed by the WW-II). A consistent recap will help in keeping everyday happenings in the world fresh and relevant to the students.

Comprehension Skills that can be developed in the students:

- Comparing and contrasting
- Summarising
- Differentiating between opinions and facts

Thus newspapers, which are cheap, accessible and easily available make wonders in helping students be ready to face the world, which is the true purpose of an education. They equip students with the skills to think independently and take a rational stand(self-justified) without coming under the influence of others' thoughts.

Tips for Effective Teaching using Newspapers:

- Presentations, guided debates and roleplays on key issues.
 - Constructive feedback among themselves
 - Giving lots of positive reinforcement
 - Hint areas of improvement
- Time all the activities and stick strictly to it (sense of urgency)
- Let the students do the talking.