



Teaching Science differently

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Using different kind of activities is a good way to motivate students.

Depending on the class I suggest them to carry out experiments and write a report of them, to prepare a video (about 3 minutes long) presenting some experiments on a theme they choose among selected topics (working in groups of 2 or 3), to do an oral presentation, to debate on a topic, to participate in scientific breakfast/tea-time.

The scientific breakfast or tea-time is an opportunity for students to meet great researchers and to exchange with them friendly sharing a breakfast or a tea-time.

For example, to prepare the video, the lesson consists of three steps for a total length of three or four hours. The first step is the selection of the theme and the selection of 2 or 3 impressive, funny, original, visual experiments. The second step is trying out the experiments and the writing of the script. The third step is the making of the video. During the last step the students are supposed to watch and to grade the video.

For example, to impulse a debate in a class of 16-year-old students I use a part of the movie "Apollo 13" (chapter 28). This activity is a new approach of the theme "the gravitational force" the students learnt in their Physics' curriculum. It's a quite difficult phenomenon to visualize. The lesson consists of three steps for a total length of two hours. During the pre-task phase, students are supposed to do a matching activity to introduce scientific words and their definitions. In the task phase, an extract of the movie APOLLO 13 is shown in order to stimulate students' listening and comprehension. To help them exchange around gravity, and space flights, students are engaged in a CLIL game. In the post-task phase, the pairs join together to form 2 groups. These groups correspond the two options the controllers in Houston make to get the astronauts back home safely. A debate is requested to argue each point of view.