

OUT AND ABOUT: SPEAKING AND WRITING OUTSIDE OF THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports on the implementation of a project primarily aimed at creating more opportunities for high school students to work on their written and spoken English. The participants were 35 students in a state school in Vinh Phuc, divided into 7 groups, each assigned with a task that involved them choosing a cultural aspect of the town they live in, collecting further information about it, presenting the findings, and then publishing the information using web-publishing tools. During the process, support from teacher and peers were provided upon request. Observation by the teacher, interviews with participants, the quality of products published online, and positive peer feedback were collected to evaluate the success of the project. The findings indicate students' active engagement with their own tasks, and sufficient interaction with others'. Additionally, all the 35 students felt that they are better-equipped with the linguistic resources needed to communicate on a basic level about their hometown. The participants also reported of feelings of pride, greater confidence, and more motivation to study, language aside.



Having been in the teaching profession for over 19 years, Thuy Tran has experience in a variety of schools from different socio-economic contexts. In addition to her current responsibilities at Vinh Phuc high school for the gifted, she has also been involved in the field of language assessment and teacher training projects at Vinh Phuc DoET. Her main interests centers around effective classroom practices, learner motivation, learner autonomy and teacher in-service development.