

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDANCE

ON MODULE 2: DIGITAL CREATIVITY

CREATING A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WITH GOOGLE SLIDES

Expected results:

- Students develop: language skills; creative problem-solving skills; the ability to select information from different sources; the ability to be cognitively flexible and willing to acquire new knowledge - the so-called developmental mindset;
- Motivating students to express themselves in writing;
- Build confidence in students to present thoughts and ideas using text, pictures, graphics in electronic format;
- Development and enrichment with creative thinking techniques;
- Cultivating critical thinking;
- Creating digital product design skills;
- Enriching teachers' digital competence with the skills to construct an e-newspaper using Google Slides and to provide methodological support for its creation by the students themselves.

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF STUDENTS' WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PEDAGOGY OF SELESTIN FRENE

The use of **the printing press** in the learning process is a fundamental technology for the work of students according to the pedagogical ideas of Celestin Freinet. As an extension of the hands-on approach to learning and teaching, students are offered the use of a printing press to reproduce the free texts they produce. By manually placing the letters to form words and sentences, they gain a better understanding of syntax and semantics.

In the 21st century, the printing press can only be seen in a museum, but not in a school. It has been successfully replaced by computer programs for word processing and duplicating. However, the change in technique and technology used does not change the nature of the creative and imaginative publishing work that students can accomplish in creating and publishing a newspaper. The preparation of each issue of the newspaper can be done in class work and extracurricular forms. The final product can be presented on paper or digitally and shared with other students, teachers, parents and the general public.

Today, the printing press is conveniently being replaced by the school's existing equipment for typesetting, processing, editing, printing and reproduction - computer with operating system, printer, copier. The newspaper can be published as a blog or as part of the school website.

Free texts are another cornerstone of Freinet's pedagogy. They enable students to focus on their centers of interest and allow them to describe their experiences, including those of everyday life /following the principle of the natural method/. Recorded personal adventures or impressions of life in or out of school are presented to the whole class, discussed and edited before being printed. This is how the **class history** and the **school newspaper** are created.

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

In classical Freinet theory, **school correspondence** is the technique that transcends the boundaries of an individual class or school. In it, the materials created in the process-texts, graphics, photographs, folders, herbariums-are sent to a correspondence class from another school, another city, or another country. In this way, they become the occasion for an even wider discussion leading to a fuller knowledge: children read, compare, ask questions, justify opinions, plan the next dispatches, communicate in a foreign language. In the 21st century, the traditional way of correspondence through written texts and postal services is giving way to the new possibilities given to us by e-mail, video-sharing and posts on blogs and websites with forums and opportunities for feedback.

The school newspaper is an important means of bonding, creating a sense of belonging and expression for students. This is particularly true in schools where students belong to different linguistic, ethnic and cultural groups and have different opportunities and expectations of schooling. Special attention should also be paid to pupils who have learning difficulties and special educational needs. The work of creating a school newspaper is a team effort and everyone can be involved according to their wishes, strengths and abilities.

In the past, the newspaper was done using the printing press and was often in the form of a wall newspaper due to lack of sufficient resources. Today, it has different variants - in paper, electronic format, video-journal, blog, school website.

It is very important to keep the newspaper student-run and avoid the temptation of teachers to determine the content and the texts themselves.

The teacher's role is to organize the process, to encourage, guide, return texts for corrections, to nurture the "newspaper" culture.

STEPS TO START A SCHOOL/CLASS NEWSPAPER:

- Gather the class!
- Introduce the idea of producing and publishing a newspaper to showcase your work;

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

- Discuss with students and let them decide how often the newspaper will be published - once a month/ every other month or less frequently;
- Discuss with the whole class and help as needed about who will be the responsible team for each unit- teacher and students/volunteers who will work as a team;
- Help students, if they are younger, decide how to divide responsibilities among team members-writers, photographers, editors, designers, information seekers, proofreaders, etc.
- Collectively decide on the type and format of the newspaper - pdf, Google Slides;
- Choose a name for your newspaper - a name competition can be held or a discussion can be held to have a common decision and appeal to all students;
- Choose what sections you will have in the newspaper and how they will be arranged on the pages and in what order;
- Think about the photos you will use and their copyrights;
- Think carefully about the design of the first page, as well as every page that follows.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS ON HOW STUDENTS CAN MAKE THEIR OWN NEWSPAPER?

Step 1: Introduce the idea and motivate students

The first and most important step is for students to understand what the idea is, what its meaning is and to like it.

This can be done by asking questions such as:

- What newspapers have you seen?
- What's in a newspaper?
- Why do we need to make a newspaper?
- What do we want to achieve with our newspaper?
- Who will be the readers of our newspaper?

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

This will help students to come to the conclusion that they want to show other students, their teachers and parents the good things that are happening in school, their interests and achievements and share some interesting practices from their class.

Step 2: Determine the work stages

The next step involves identifying the activities that will lead to the achievement of the goal, i.e. the creation of a newspaper.

It would be good if the suggestions came from the children, which is one of the basic principles of Celestin Frene's pedagogy.

At the end of the discussion, decisions should be taken on:

- The name of the newspaper;
- Newspaper logo;
- Main sections or headings;
- The type of illustrations to be used in the newspaper - photos, graphics, drawings, etc.;
- The overall design and layout of each page;
- Periodicity of publication;
- Programs to prepare with;
- Place where it will be published.

Steps 3: Assign roles and responsibilities

At this stage, the students should allocate responsibilities among themselves taking into account the wishes and abilities of the team members:

- Who will look for information?
- Who will process the information?
- Who will do the illustrations?
- Who will create the articles?
- Who will edit them?

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

- Who will select the people who can be interviewed - students, teachers, parents, experts, guests of the school, etc.?
- Who will do the interviews?
- Who will make sure the newspaper is on time and published as planned?
- Who is going to publish it in finished form?

Step 4: Work in the process of preparing the newspaper

It is a good idea to plan the time the class spends working on the newspaper. This can be done in the class period or in the "Self-Study" part that also leads during the CCD, if there is one, or at a free and convenient time for the students.

The students who have formed the team work together or independently depending on the tasks they have, and the teacher is available i.e. helps and guides them when needed, but does not direct them.

Step 5: Tracking the progress of the newspaper preparation

In the course of the work, it is good to make intermediate stops for the team to share:

- What it has achieved;
- What difficulties he has encountered and how he has dealt with them or failed;
- What tasks lie ahead;
- How time is kept, etc.

In this way, the teacher is able to monitor the progress of the project, as well as provide help where students are struggling.

Step 6: Presenting the newspaper

The launch of each new issue of the newspaper is publicized through various channels - a news item on the website, a Facebook message, information is sent to interested parties via email.

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

STRENGTHS OF THE WORK ON THE SCHOOL/CLASSNEWSPAPER

- Community building and teamwork;
- Displays learning outcomes and achievements for students;
- Improves communication;
- Students feel heard - they are empowered to design, write, draw, edit, design, publish;
- Facilitates the self-regulated learning that occurs not only in the classroom, but also outside of it;
- Students' self-esteem improves when they see the interest in the product of their work;
- Combines intellectual activity in practical work on construction and presentation.

Contract No. 2020-1-BG01-KA201-079295

REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

Gyurova, Vyara. *Learning through collaboration - Celestin Freinet and his pedagogy* - Pedagogy, issue 4, 2015

Albulescu, Ion. *Alternative Educational Methodologies*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018

Project Worksheet Templates for Newspapers.

<https://www.storyboardthat.com/bg/%D1%81%D1%8A%D0%B7%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%B9%D1%82%D0%B5/%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA>

<https://www.google.com/slides/about/>

<https://www.fimem-freinet.org/>

<https://projects.solutionsbg.com/freinet/freinet.php?lang=bg>

<https://ecovillage.org/solution/freinet-pedagogy>

<http://www.hltmag.co.uk/dec14/sart06.htm>