

L I S T O F A C T I V I T I E S

Below is a small sample of activities that I like to do in class. In the list of resources, you will find a lot more activities to use.

ACTIVITIES WITH A DECK OF CARDS

- I use the cards to divide the students into teams by using colors, suits, or numbers and no one is left alone and, everyone must interact with other students.
- I put the students in a circle and identify the subject we will use to practice oral skills. They each get a card and the number on the card is the number of facts on the subject they are required to identify.
- I use the cards to help me establish the order of student's presentations.
- I separate the class in two: they both get a deck of cards. They have to place the cards in order as fast as possible without speaking English. They get a time penalty if they use English. We do this activity two or three times in succession to help build language skills.
- To help enhance group discussions, after students have completed a work sheet or study guide, they get a card and they find the students with matching cards. Their task is to discuss question #1. For question #2, they get a new card and they move to their new group and repeat the exercise.
- I put pictures and words on different cards. The students need to match the right picture and the right word.

ACTIVITIES WITH MUSIC

- Musical chairs. I use this activity to practice auto-correction (self-editing / self correction). I place the desks in a circle and, each student

has his computer in front of him. When the music starts, students get up and turn around. When the music stops, they sit where they are and keep writing, on the computer in front of them, the story that was started before. When the class is over, each student saves the work on their computer and for homework, he edits and corrects the story that was on his computer.

- When I know that students will need to do “seat work” for an extended amount of time, I break it up by asking students to make a big circle, have someone go in the middle and we dance or stretch for 5 minutes following the movements of the leader in the middle.

RICOCHET BALL

- When I do grammar exercises, I like to use games. Games make the exercises more interesting and the students actually enjoy doing them. I make a grid on the floor with points. For the right answers, students get a certain number of throws with the ricochet ball.
- I throw the ball in the air. It needs to bounce twice before a boy grabs it. Then, that student must answer a grammar question. If he is correct, he throws the ball again and someone else catches it and has the opportunity to answer a grammar question.
- I have made vocabulary chains with the ball by asking students to find words that start with the same letter and each student must you need to remember what the others said first.

OTHER

- Before school starts, I send a card welcoming each student to my class and I also ask for a 2\$ wrapped gift which I use for rewards and prizes throughout the year.
- I ask my students to interview people in school about different subjects and different teaching techniques. Students like to do this as they learn more about their teachers and I like it as they practice their French conversational skills.
- Animal game: each student chooses 2 animals. They get into their group (sea, farm, jungle, dinosaurs) and they discuss why their group

is the best at solving problems. They can make a presentation to the whole class making the arguments for their animal group.

LIST OF RESOURCES

Here is a list of different books and websites that inspired many of the activities discussed in this workshop.

- “Writing and experiential education”, Leslie Rappalie. Woodbarnes Publishing. 2011
- “Ricochet”, Chris Cavert. Learning Unlimited Corporation. 2001
- “Playing with a full deck” Michelle Cummings. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. 2007
- Blog “Instigate Change” from Courtney Armstrong.
<http://cbearsden.blogspot.com/>
- Association of Experiential Education
<http://www.aee.org/>
- Karl Rohnke
<http://www.karlrohnke.com/>
- Website with a lot of great games and tools to use in class.
www.training-wheels.com
- Thumball
www.thumball.com

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me ☺

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“So here's to failing, learning, growing, and never arriving at perfection...because in perfection there's no room for growth.”

- Courtney Armstrong.