1:1 netbook scenario, Nº5

Music quiz to discuss about human rights

Subjects: foreign language, citizenship, ethics, music, media education

Level: secondary school

Time: +/-45 min work in class

Description:

During a foreign language, music or citizenship class students explore different issues related to human rights. The teacher runs the music quiz where students hear different tunes from famous songs and they have to find out the performers' names as well as the song titles. The student who recognises the song first, can get a small reward. The teacher encourages students to reflect on the lyrics after each of the songs. All the songs should be related to the topic the class focuses on. After this, the students work in small groups and think of other songs that are related to the lesson topic. Using the recommended sites and tools students create their own music quiz. Pupils use netbooks online for Internet searches and to download music, and off-line to prepare the music quiz presentation.

Tools

Netbooks

- Internet search: students connect to the Internet to find relevant songs to the topic(s) they focus on and search for background materials
- Using a presentation tool the students put together their quizzes.
- Using netbooks and projector for the presentation

Other

- Projector
- Presentation tool e.g. PowerPoint
- An example of a music quiz can be downloaded here:
  http://files.eun.org/netbooks/musicquiz.zip (115 Mb)

Lesson preparation

- Apart from the given songs, the teacher can identify more songs on human rights (e.g. in the native language)
- Information search on human rights related songs and video clips. Teacher should download the songs and video clips if possible with the lyrics (a karaoke version).

- Putting the quiz together using a presentation software (e.g. PowerPoint).
- The teacher can also search sites like www.songfacts.com to gather additional information on the songs.

Process

1. Introduction at classroom

Offline | Full class | Tools: notebook, projector, PowerPoint

Teacher introduces the music quiz activity telling students that they will hear different tunes from some famous songs and they will have to find out the performers' names and song titles. The student who recognises the song first, can get a small reward on the spot. This can give a further boost to the task.

2. Running the quiz and discussion

Offline | Full class | Tools: notebook, projector, PowerPoint, mind mapping tool

Following a correct answer the teachers shows the full video clip, preferably with the lyrics so that students could sing along and pay attention to the lyrics. After this, the teacher encourages students to reflect on the lyrics and get them engaged in a discussion of the message the song is intended to convey. The teacher can write down the ideas using a mind mapping tool.

The activity should be as interactive and engaging as possible. If the lyrics are very challenging the teacher can use the Lesson Writer tool to create a glossary of the vocabulary (www.lessonwriter.com/).

Following a few minutes of spontaneous discussion the teacher shows a slide with additional facts and information about the song.

3. Students creating their own music quiz

Online | Group work | Tools: netbooks, PowerPoint

Teacher asks students to work in small groups and to create their own music quiz. The teacher can select the topic(s). The teacher gives to the students a list of online resources they can use in the task, e.g. information on technical guidance to download YouTube songs.

4. Students present their own music quiz

Offline | Full class | Tools: netbooks, projector, PowerPoint

Students run their quizzes in the same way as the teacher did and other students try to guess the songs as groups. The group that has a correct guess gets a point. Everybody participates in the discussion. The group who is presenting can argument their selection by showing the additional information.

5. Homework

Online | Homework | Tools: netbooks for Internet research, downloading songs

Teacher assigns students to create music quizzes for the next lesson which will focus on another interesting topic. As an alternative, students can create film quizzes where the centre topic is relevant to the lesson topic and they can download movie trailers.

As a third alternative students could be asked to create a digital portfolio on the topic they focus on. As far as human rights are concerned, there are many examples of performing artists who have performed in charity concerts in support of human rights or who have publicly championed human rights causes. Gathering such kind of news and video clippings to create a portfolio of human rights would be an interesting activity. As a fourth alternative students could reflect on a video song at a Voicethread forum (http://voicethread.com/). This Voicethread forum should be prepared by the teacher.

Examples of songs that support or raise awareness of human rights

- John Lennon: Give Peace a Chance, Imagine
- Sarah McLachlan: Shelter
- John Kongos (South Africa): He's Gonna Step on You Again
- Willie Dunn: Charlie Wenjack
- Bob Marley (Wailers): Get Up, Stand Up; War
- Billie Holiday: Strange Fruit
- Gordon Lightfoot: Black Day in July
- Buffy Ste-Marie: Universal Soldier, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee
- U2: One, Sunday Bloody Sunday, The Refugee
- Buffalo Springfield: For What It's Worth
- Joan Baez: We Shall Overcome
- Bob Dylan: The Times They Are a' Changing
- Sting: They Dance Alone
- Bruce Cockburn: It's Going Down Slow, Call It Democracy
- Bryan Adams, David Foster: Tears Are Not Enough
- The Hollies, Cher, Rufus Wainwright: He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

Links

- Amnesty International, Music for Human Rights:
  www.amnestyusa.org/musicforhumanrights/artists/artist_orton_beth.html
- Songs for teaching http://www.songsforteaching.com/charactereducationsongs.htm
- Risa Song Lyrics Archive http://www.risa.co.uk/sla/
- Lyrics Mode http://www.lyricsmode.com/
- SongFacts http://www.songfacts.com/
- Experience project http://www.experienceproject.com/music_search.php?song=teenagers
- Using songs in the English Classroom (article) http://www.hltmag.co.uk/apr09/less01.htm
- Download YouTube videos free http://keepvid.com/
- Download YouTube videos free (Xilisoft software) http://www.xilisoft.com/download-youtube-video.html
- Voicethread http://voicethread.com/
- Lesson writer: http://www.lessonwriter.com/default.aspx