

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."
Eleanor Roosevelt

Field trips form a large part of our exchanges. Not only are they a chance to get 'out and about' into the real world of the country we are visiting but our students (and teachers) will also gain valuable knowledge from the opportunity to physically explore a location that demonstrates what they've been learning in class.

A few simple rules to follow when taking students on field trips

PREPARATION

This is key to all successful field trips

Academic - In theory our field trip will tie in with something that our students have been studying in class allowing them to already be well prepared with the vocabulary and concepts necessary to make the trip meaningful. We might need to explain to our students how the trip fits in with the topics/concepts we've been learning in class and also our overall educational goals.

Vocabulary - we need to make sure that our students are clear on all the key vocabulary that they will need to be familiar with in order to get the best from the trip. Micro language can be taught/revised before the trip and if necessary students can take vocabulary sheets with them on the trip. It's also useful to revise language needed to politely interact with staff/people likely to be encountered on the trip.

Aims and objectives - A well prepared meaningful activity to be done during the trip will be vital in this part. We should explain clearly to our students what is expected from them before we leave for the trip. The activity needs to be interactive and preferably will also require some analytical thought, and of course an element of fun or light competition always adds to the challenge. It's important to consider that apart from the 'mission' we have given our students some time for them to simply relax and soak up the atmosphere of the place we are visiting is vital to making the trip memorable

ON THE DAY

Groups - these can of course be organised according to friendships, abilities, trying to encourage socialising with other students depending on the needs of the moment. It is advisable however to give each member of the group a role: scribes, checkers, time keepers, speakers are all essential to successful collaborative learning.

Behaviour - depending on where the trip will take place students may need to be reminded of the appropriate behaviour - boredom and over enthusiasm can both lead to restless or rowdy behaviour (another reason to work carefully on the task in hand)

Follow-up - reflection

Back in class- There are a number of activities that can be useful when back in the classroom environment a couple of favourites are free writing on the experience for 15 minutes, or of course a group discussion on our findings with a final teacher guided activity on our conclusions.

And finally.....

It's always a nice gesture for students and teachers to send a thank you card/email to say who and what

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