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French 101

To Enhance Students' Understanding of French verb forms.

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- ▶ **Students do not understand how to use the verb “Etre,” “Avoir,” “Aller,” “Faire,” and other verbs correctly.**

PROBLEM---ADDRESSED PEDAGOGICALLY

- ▶ Now that the semester is ending, I realize that my understanding of students learning has been enhanced because I learned how to ENGAGE my students more in the process of learning.
- ▶ Before participating in this fellowship, I used to think that everything I explained in class was understood, especially by those students who were coming regularly to class and were good listeners.
- ▶ Then, however, I noticed that many students continued to make mistakes in their quizzes, especially regarding the use of the Verbs Forms (conjugation).
- ▶ During this Fellowship, I learned how to help my students to be ACTIVE learners and AGENTS of Their Own Learning.

STRATEGY: Using Dialogues to Enhance Students' Understanding of French Verb Forms

- ▶ **Development of a Dialogue using the verb "ETRE"**
 - **1) I request that students write three sentences in which they use 3 adjectives with the verb " ETRE." These adjectives describe their citizenship and traits of their personality.**
 - **2) I have them read the sentences to the class, so that they have oral practice as well as written practice.**
 - **3)Then I have them create dialogues in which they use "ETRE," employing both positive and negative forms of "ETRE."**
 - **4) In addition, I have them use "ETRE" as part of the questions in their dialogues.**

DIALOGUE STRATEGY USED FOR OTHER VERBS

- ▶ **THIS DIALOGUE STRATEGY WAS USED NOT ONLY FOR “ETRE” BUT FOR MANY OTHER VERBS:**
- ▶ **“AVOIR”**
- ▶ **“DANSER” “PARLER” “AIMER”— “ER” VERBS**
- ▶ **“FINIR,” “PARTIR,” “IR” VERBS**
- ▶ **“FAIRE”**
- ▶ **“ALLER”**
- ▶ **“PRENDRE” and “COMPREHENDRE”— “RE” verbs**
- ▶ **“SOURIRE”—“IRE” VERB**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- ▶ I USED THIS STRATEGY FROM WEEK 3 OF THE SEMESTER THROUGH WEEK 14.
- ▶ I focused on a specific verb at the end of each class. At the beginning of the semester, I focused on the present tense and later in the semester on the passe compose.
- ▶ Thus, students were engaged in active learning techniques each week.
- ▶ This allowed them to make progress both
 - in their quizzes and
 - in their speaking and pronunciation

Students: Engaged in Collaborative Learning & Agents of Their Own Learning

- 1) These dialogues help students in understanding the use of the verb "ETRE" as well as many other important verbs. Students are learning more content; they are learning more easily, more deeply, more effectively, and more efficiently.**
- 2) Students have experience in everyday conversation; they realize that they have the ability to interact in a foreign language on a basic level.**
- 3) Students are more engaged with the material, with other students, and with me in the learning process.**
- 4) Students are more aware that they are the agents of their own learning, not just the recipients of knowledge, because they are initiating and practicing conversations, not just listening to me, the instructor.**
- 5) By talking to each other, students have a greater sense of community and the joy of learning together, collaboratively.**

Strategy Successful: Students Feel Confident and Empowered

- ▶ **Students have experience in everyday conversation; they realize that they have the ability to interact in a foreign language on a basic level.**
- ▶ **The above results were achieved and worked even better than I hoped**
 - ▶ **Because through practice students are teaching themselves,**
 - ▶ **Because they are engaged in active learning, and**
 - ▶ **Because they realize that they are agents of their own learning.**
- ▶ **And all this is a result of their personal effort as well as the collaborative group work.**

ASSESSMENT OF MY STRATEGY

- ▶ I give students index cards where they answer questions to ensure that my strategy is working effectively.
- ▶ **QUESTIONS:**
 - ▶ 1) Do these dialogues help in your understanding of the use of the verb “_____” ?
 - ▶ 2) Do these dialogues help you build a simple, correct sentence in French?
 - ▶ 3) Please explain why for each of the above.
- ▶ Through these weekly surveys, I have found that the majority of students consider that the strategy is very helpful and that the dialogues not only reinforce the use and practice of the specific verb but also improve their pronunciation in French.
- ▶ Their answers to these questions are anonymous, which adds to the validity of their responses.

Some Student Responses

- ▶ “Practicing the verb ‘etre’ with a group helps me learn”
- ▶ “Practicing the verb ‘avoir’ and the expressions with ‘avoir’ through dialogue helps me better my French”
- ▶ “Thank you, Madame. It was very helpful. Every time we speak--using dialogues as a class--it is super helpful”
- ▶ “Practicing the verb ‘aller’ was GREAT!”

Book on Pedagogical Techniques that Inspired My Strategy

▶ Agents of Their Own Learning–

▶ *The Craft of College Teaching* by Di Yanni and Borst

"Helping students develop a sense of control over their work, a sense of agency, increases their willingness to work hard at something. Agency helps them focus their attention, persist through struggles, understand themselves as competent, and build their confidence (47)"

DIALOGUE OF TWO STUDENTS PRACTICING WHAT THEY LEARNED AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER

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The Use of Greetings, Question Words, and the Verb ALLER, FAIRE, ETUDIER, MANGER, and AVOIR.

- ▶ https://montgomerycollege0-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/zatta_montgomerycollege_edu/EdF6BYoqFqxEsQOsfqDJgxcBbS2OGMLcThxwm_eCJOMntw