

‘ELT for a Global World’



FSA
2015

Global Issues through ELT

A seminar course for MA in ELT
students

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Financed from the support ELTE won from the ‘Restructuring Higher Education’ Fund of the Hungarian Government

Session 10

Additional resources

Session Overview:

- In this session we will become familiar with some further resources for bringing global issues into the classroom
- In particular, we will focus on TED-Ed and try out a sample unit
- We will also be working on the topic of Human Rights

What is TED-ED?

It is an extension of TED Talks. Each unit focuses on a powerful short talk, and includes supplementary materials and activities for processing the talk: e.g. multiple choice tasks, discussion questions.

Some of the talks have previously been given on TED, others have been put together based on short educational videos available on YouTube.

Here is the link: <http://ed.ted.com/>

TED-ED and ELT

There is an overwhelming amount of talks and videos available these days. Choosing the appropriate input for discussion and thinking can take the teacher a long time.

TED-ED is particularly suitable material for an English class because of the follow-up tasks. They are an invaluable resource for combining language work with working towards educational aims, such as developing creative, critical and compassionate thinking.

TED-ED: looking at a sample unit

What are the universal human rights? -

Benedetta Berti

Here is the link:

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-are-the-universal-human-rights-benedetta-berti>

As you watch the presentation, please focus on both content and language. Make a note of language items that are not in your active vocabulary. Then do the 'Think' section in pairs.

TED-ED: looking at a sample unit

Discuss: Humans around the planet are working hard to protect habitat. Are these conservation efforts enough, or is it too late for us to sustain the ecosystems that we all rely on?

1. What do you think is the most important and neglected human right? Why?
2. Look at your own country: do you think human rights are upheld and protected where you live? Why? Why not?

TED-ED: looking at a sample unit

Write your response on a post-it and put it up on the board when you're ready. You might want to read some of the previous responses before you write your own.

Here is a response from the site:

"I have determined to devote the rest of my life to being a citizen of humanity, being the best I can be. So I am involved in groups working hard to protect our planet as a habitat not only for humanity but for humpback whales, dolphins, bonobos and many other species. It is getting late but not too late to sustain these ecosystems; more efforts are needed now to conserve global human civilization and the habitat on which it depends." (Bill Weir)

Sample student comment 1

“We love to voice our own rights, seek compensation if we are wronged; yet, it seems to me that we have a tendency to forget that it is not only the ‘I’ and ‘we’, but also the ‘you’ who have the very same rights – since, we are the ones depriving others from their fundamental rights, aren’t we...?”

I think that discussing rights is a very good way of raising awareness, widening horizons and building empathy.” (Detti)

Sample student comment 2

“An idea that inspired me was that of digital privacy. I think it is a human right which we are not aware of; in fact, I would even say that sometimes we violate our own rights in this respect! For example, if someone posts a too revealing photo on facebook etc. That’s an interesting topic to discuss in class.” (Gyöngyi)

Follow-up task

Read and reflect

- Go up to the board and read each other's comments.
- Do you notice any recurring themes?
- Did anyone write anything that you see differently?
- Can you identify a question – theme for further discussion?

Questions for a follow-up discussion

Here is a list of themes that one group came up with:

- What about animal rights? How do they compare to human rights?
- What rights to children have? When does one become an adult?
- What if different rights are in conflict? E.g. The right to privacy and the right to safety.

Session Summary

The topic of Human Rights can be linked to International Human Rights Day, which falls on the 10th of December.

The TED-Ed Unit is a good starting point for thinking, writing, and follow-up discussion.

For students with lower levels, there are simplified versions available of the Declaration of Human Rights.

Here is the link to one such site:

<http://www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/articles-1-15.html>