Global Issues through ELT

A seminar course for MA in ELT students

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Session 2: The teacher as educator
Session overview

This session has three main aims:

• To explore the meaning of ‘teacher as educator’
• To focus specifically on what language teachers can do if they see themselves as educators
• To give you a chance to reflect on your past school experiences
What do you think?

1 Write a short response to the following quote: “In my view, an educator is a person who not only shares his/her knowledge but also prepares students for life outside the school and teaches them certain values.” (Kitti)

2 Share your ideas with the person sitting next to you.

3 Discuss your ideas in a whole-class format.
What do you think?

1 Write a short response to the following quote:
“What I have to do as an educator is to teach children to never take anything for granted just because they hear it from someone they like or look up to.” (Zsófi)

2 Share your ideas with the person sitting next to you.

3 Discuss your ideas as a whole class.
What do you think?

1 Write a short response to the following quote:
“There are two types of teachers. Those who became teachers because they wanted to choose a profession in connection with a subject they love; and those who wanted to become educators, so they had to choose a subject to teach.” (Rita)

2 Share your ideas with the person sitting next to you.

3 Discuss your ideas as a whole class.
Reflect on your own experience

• Has learning a foreign language contributed to your personality development? If yes, in what way?

• Has speaking a foreign language enabled you to gain new knowledge, or develop new skills? If yes, what exactly?

• Recall one of your teachers who was an educator as well as a subject matter specialist. In what way was s/he an educator?
In addition to teaching the language, a language teacher can help to widen horizons. Here are some ways in which a teacher can do this:

•Raise awareness of cultural differences
•Do student projects with real-world content
•Give home assignments related to current issues
•Invite guest speakers from other fields, backgrounds
Widening horizons: example 1

The Country Project

Your task is to carry out some research on the country that has chosen you. You will need to present your findings in the form of a poster presentation. Make sure to include the following:

• Geographical location / neighboring countries
• Population / form of government/ languages
• Customs / everyday life / city life – country life
Widening horizons: example 2

The ‘special term’ project

Choose one of the special terms seen on the next slide and prepare to give a 5-minute presentation on it in our next class. You will be giving your presentations in small groups of 3-4.

Remember, less is more. Make sure you don’t overload your fellow students with too much information. In addition, you need to include a visual element, e.g. poster, ppt, picture.
‘Special term’ project: choose one

affluenza    flow    johari window
xenophobia   gated community
Valley girl   slow food   downshifting
mindfulness   culture shock
carbon footprint   sustainable development
tipping point    serendipity
Ubuntu       critical mass    micro-credit
amnesty international
Follow-up reading

For our next class please read:
http://www.hurights.or.jp/pub/hreas/5/06cates.pdf

Write a comment responding to the following:

• According to the article, what makes a ‘socially responsible world citizen’?
• What is one idea raised by the article that you want to think more about?