

All Aboard: Learning and Living Languages

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Description

Producing global citizens require teachers to immerse students in the target language. A local language immersion camp coordinated by the teachers themselves will provide an alternative experience of living abroad where the target language is spoken. The camp will engage students in real life experiences in a stress free environment.

Content

In pursuit of global education, foreign language teachers need to aim at producing world citizens who have knowledge of the language and its culture, and the skills to communicate effectively with native speakers other than the teacher. A local language immersion camp provides an alternative experience to students who can not travel abroad to a country where the target language is spoken or who can not afford to attend costly camps. The goal of this camp is to maximize students' opportunities to acquire language through using it for longer hours within the day, and through carrying out real-life tasks in activities like cooking ethnic food, poetry reading, songs, crafts, sports, traditional games, theatre skits, and field trips. A language immersion camp will create a free-anxiety atmosphere where students will not fear making mistakes and consequently help them take more risks to enhance their communicative skills.

Benefit

The audience will learn about all the stages of planning a local immersion language camp for students k-16 including: advertising the camp, recruiting sponsors, hiring qualified staff, planning the activities, and closing procedures. They will also take with them ideas of communicative activities and cultural games that they can use in their future camp.

Methods

In small groups, participants will engage actively in discussions to brainstorm opportunities to maximize students' learning beyond the classroom. Presenters will help the audience recognize the value and effectiveness of real-life related activities based on their personal experiences of three consecutive years coordinating local immersion language camps for K-12 as they share with them pictures and students' portfolios.