

English in Mind

Level 5 Project 4 Teacher's Notes

A class project: a future newspaper

Divide the class into groups of four to six.

1 Discussion

- a) Write the date on the board, but make the year 30 years in the future. Ask your class to calculate how old they will be on that date. Tell them they are all working as journalists, preparing an issue of the newspaper for that day. They will have to write about the world as they imagine it will be at that time. Give them time in their groups to come up with ideas, using the points given as prompts.
- b) When they seem ready, open up the discussion to the class, taking each point in turn.

2 Analyse a newspaper

- a) Provide each group with a copy of a recent newspaper, preferably in English, but otherwise in their own language. A range of different newspapers would be suitable.
- b) Ask them to go through the paper finding the various sections listed, noting where they come in the newspaper and how many pages they cover.
- c) Ask them also to look at the visual material. Refer them to the questions.

3 Plan your future newspaper

- a) Ask them to come up with suggestions for a title. You can refer them to the picture of Superman, alias Clark Kent, who was a reporter for 'The Daily Planet'.
- b) They will be writing one newspaper for the whole class. Divide the newspaper sections between the groups, so that you will have, for example, one group concentrating on international news, another group concentrating on sport, etc.

- c) Give them plenty of time to come up with ideas for their articles. Remind them that they will be writing about the world in 30 years' time. Monitor to make sure that each student has chosen a topic to write about. You may wish to specify the number of words (e.g. 150–200).
- d) A stronger member of the group can act as section editor. His/her job will be to make sure everyone has completed their written work, co-ordinate the peer correction in Exercise 4d and oversee the final layout of the section in Exercise 5b.

4 Write your article

- a) The writing can be started in class and finished for homework. Encourage students to plan their ideas first. If they have access to computers or other sources, they can find out what modern-day scientists and others predict for the development of their particular field. This will enable them to write more serious and convincing articles. Otherwise they will have to use their imaginations.
- b) Refer them to page 101 (Exercise 7a) in the Student's Book for help in writing articles and reports. You may also wish to use the newspapers you have provided to look at language and style.
- c) They should then think about artwork to accompany their article. These could be 'photos' (which can be sketched), cartoons, diagrams and headings. They can be done by hand or, if available, using computers or magazines.
- d) Having completed their first drafts, the students bring them back to the groups for comments. Encourage them to make positive suggestions. The section editor should make sure that each piece of writing is seen by at least two other group members. Refer them to points given in the project instructions.
- e) Allow students time to re-write their articles or edit them using a computer. Artwork can be done separately and incorporated later.

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5 Design your pages

- a) Provide students with scissors and paste if necessary. Monitor to make sure they are all involved in planning and assembling the layout. Computers can also be used, if available.
- b) If you already have a group concentrating on designing advertisements, these can be spread around the groups to fill in the blank spaces. Otherwise each group can create a few of their own. Encourage them to come up with ideas for futuristic products or services.

6 Put the newspaper together

- a) When all the groups are ready with their sections, ask the class which order they think the sections should go in. Space should be left at the top of the front page for the title. The students' names should accompany their article.
- b) If you are only able to make one copy of the finished newspaper, this can be stapled together and displayed. Punch a hole in the top left hand corner and use a piece of string to hang it from a hook or drawing pin. If you are able to photocopy one copy for each group, these can be handed out in a later lesson. Students can help you to collate the copies.
- c) The students read each other's articles and discuss the questions given.