

PHOTONOVEL

The Photonovel (Fotonovela) is a technique that combines different means of expression, consisting of chronological photographs with dialogue enclosed in balloons, as in the style of a comic book. In the past it was an element that was very much appreciated by the popular class of the society and today it can be used to represent stories and our feelings in a creative way.

Objectives

- To recognise, share and learn about one's own experience as an allophone.
- To express and communicate through non-verbal body language and visual arts and combine written forms of expression.
- To help externalise feelings and experiences.

Activities

1. We walk on a scale of 1-10 (1: the slowest, 10: the quickest).

We say “good morning” in different ways & emotions (e.g. joy, surprise, excitement, anger, etc.). Group members suggest some other ways and the group follows. We also suggest “good morning” in different languages.

2. *Getting to know each other:*

Everyone says his/her name and one (1) word (noun or adjective) starting from the letter of his/her name to illuminate a positive aspect of himself/herself.

3. “Everyone who”:

The group sits in a circle of chairs, except of one participant, who remains in the middle, standing, without a chair. The one in the middle proposes something/a sentence/feature that applies to him/her, for example: “Everyone who has long hair”, “Everyone who has 2 brothers and/or sisters” etc.

All the members of the group who fulfil the given condition/feature have to get up and quickly find a new empty chair (it is not allowed to go to the adjacent ones) and in turn the person who is in the centre tries to sit down. Thus, this process creates a new participant in the centre (the last who will not find an empty chair to sit), who will repeat the phrase “Everyone who” and add a new proposal that applies or defines him/her.

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In the final part of the game the facilitator(s) try to stay in the centre and propose specific features in order to open a discussion with the group about the themes of immigration and allophone students that we examine, i.e: “Everyone who speaks another mother tongue”, “Everyone who has an ancestor who speaks/used to speak another mother tongue”.

4. “Hot-Seating” in small groups:

The participants, working as themselves or in role, have the opportunity to question or interview the children who have changed places in the last two questions of the previous exercise, meaning the children who speak another mother tongue or has ancestor who does.

Through ‘Questions & Answers’ the children share and explore personal stories.

5. “Still image”:

In the same small groups the participants are asked to create 5 Still Images in order to narrate one of the stories that has been shared or a new devised story based on different element of these stories.

There might be combined some extras drama techniques/conventions for the dynamization of the images such as inner monologue, title, flash back, slow motion etc. (See Appendix “Image Theatre”).

During the presentation, the images of each group are photographed.

6. We print the photographs of each group, which constitute the base material to create the Photonovela, where the story unfolds. Dialogues and thoughts are placed in balloons using any language that the group chooses. The photographs can also be complemented with drawings or any other idea the participants propose, always respecting and stimulating their creativity. New still images can be made, photographed and print, if the group considers it as necessary.

7. The photographs, following a chronological order to narrate the story, can be presented in two (2) ways: 1. They can be pasted on a cardboard, as a panel, or 2. they can be presented in a form of a booklet.

8. The final creations are presented to the rest of the groups.