

Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership 2017-2019

Connecting Memories. The Power of the Past and the Future of Europe

Project number: 2017-1-DE02-KA204-004260

Exercise Title: **Newspaper theatre**

Recommended group size/type: 4-20 or more

Recommended time: 3-4 hours

Preparation time 30 min.

AIMS and objectives (general, concrete)

- Playful mind-opening towards a topic; participants bring their own ideas and considerations in.
- Practising reading and understanding a text (as native speaker or as learner of a foreign language),
- Discovering and experiencing one's own creativity,
- Fostering the capacity to act,
- Group building (in short terms or longer terms), creating a context in which participants experience belonging,
- Overcoming fear to play scenes/theatre.

Resources required: Texts (newspaper, books, blog contributions, letters, press releases, official declarations, poems, etc.)
Space for group work and a (self-created) scene

Introduction:

Newspaper theatre is quite simple – in its basic form – and can easily be adopted in various educational contexts. This kind of role-playing represents the first attempt that was made to create the Theatre of the Oppressed (Augusto Boal, 1931-2009) by giving the audience the means of production rather than the finished artistic product. Theatre or role-playing is a common process which includes everyone (who want this). Instead of listening/just consuming reflects the result (the piece) a collaboration of actors and non-actors. In this regard, theatre is a laboratory of democracy.

In newspaper theatre, the group will devise a theatrical scene using a piece of news from a newspaper, or from any other written material like reports of a political mee-

ting, texts from the Bible, from the Constitution of a country, the Declaration of Human Rights, etc.

Trainer activity:

Start with some fresh-ups to get into theatre work.

1. Provide texts.
2. Build smaller groups.
3. Invite each group to show the scenes.
4. Ask questions to the auditorium afterwards: What did you observe? What about the possible meaning? What do you think about the issue? Etc.

Participants activity:

1. There is a range of articles, texts, etc. in the room. The participants chose the ones they want to work with.
2. The participants read the texts (possibly with different reading methods). They share their associations, ideas, opinions, the pro and the contra towards the article's thoughts.
3. The participants create together a scene.
4. They play it to the whole group.
5. Discussion: Participants exchange about the topic, their feelings and perceptions.

Preconditions:

Important:

1. All people can be actors. One idea of the Theatre of the Oppressed is to overcome the distinction between actors and the (passive, consuming) audience.
2. What participants do is based on their free decision. If anyone avoids taking part in an exercise, it is o.k. All is voluntarily.
3. Making mistakes is o.k.! :-)

Challenges that may occur: .

Participants face difficulties to move



or are not used to talk in front of a group. Trainer should try to include them *as they are*.