

## Teaching English Language with Digital Journalism

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### ABSTRACT

Digital Journalism refers to the production and distribution of reports on recent events via internet. Digital journals can be used as learning material and an assessment tool for English Language Teaching. Through Digital Journalism students can develop Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. Further, students can update their practical knowledge. During lab hours, students are asked to read the journals related to Engineering or current affairs, and to take notes. This will improve their reading and writing skill. To improve the listening and speaking skills of the students, Group Discussion classes are conducted on the topics they have read. Hence, teaching English language with digital journalism will save time and energy. At the same time it will update their practical knowledge to compete in the digital world.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Learning is a lifelong process. Students learn not only from textbooks but also from media. Mass media has become an essential part of everyone's life. Media keeps you informed irrespective of Geolocation. The most common platforms for mass media are newspapers, magazines, radio, television and the internet. After the advent of Android mobile there are so many ways to communicate such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Blogs, Tweets, and YouTube. It reaches the wide audience quickly. The habit of reading books is decreasing. Students started to browse from internet than referring books from libraries, dictionaries, newspapers or magazines in the digitalized world. If students are aware of current affairs they can communicate confidently. Digital journals can be used as learning materials and an assessment tool for Group Discussion during lab session. Digital Journals can be used effectively for Active Learning Methods to improve LSRW skills. Hence, this paper analyses the importance of digital journals in English Language Teaching.

Digital Journals can be used to improve vocabulary and develop the four skills respectively, LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). According to SPELT method (Social, Political, Economical, Legal and Technological) we can ask the students to collect the news from the digital journals.

## 2. Active Learning Methods to Improve LSRW Skills.

### 2.1 Play a Current Events Game

Make a list of five categories that might be created using Digital Journals, such as Environmental issues, Places, Persons, Movies, Science and Technology. Ask students to search in the Digital Journals for information related to each category and to write questions based on the information they find. (Remind students to make a note of the answers to their questions.) Arrange students into teams, and use the question-and-answer combinations to play the current events game. If we practise this habit of reading Digital Journals, students will enable to understand the language. Through this method students gather knowledge and exchange their views. At the time of Group Discussion, the students can speak confidently so they can seek and give information. If they don't have content to discuss the students will remain silent.

### 2.2 Fishbowl Activity

Students are asked to write down topic in the bowl which they have discussed for the past one week. Students have to choose the topic and give extempore speech on the topic from the bowl.

### 2.3 Think Pair Share

We can give an issue to discuss through brainstorming. We can develop their divergent thinking. Assume that you are Finance or Education

Minister. You create a budget. You conduct one meeting other should take notes and prepare minutes. Through meetings students' speaking skill will develop and their responsibility towards the society and their attitude may improve to the next level. Before conducting the meeting, we can ask them to send Notice/ Circular.

#### 2.4 Writing Skill

We can give exercises to develop headlines, hints development and note making. Students are asked to note down the abbreviations and the new words with their usage.

#### 2.5 Listening Skill

To improve the listening skill, students are asked to prepare a list of objective questions based on the content they read in Digital Journals. It may be true /false. Choose the correct answer and the gap filling test.

#### 2.6 Speaking Skill

Digital Journals can be used to improve the speaking skill of the students. First we should give the topic. Each weekend we can ask the students to give a speech on which topics they have read and discussed in Digital Journals. We can split the group to collect the information based on the area of interest. During lab session students are asked to read digital journals and based on the article they have read GD is conducted. As digital journals are cost efficient, updated and easily available, we can use digital journals as learning materials for group discussion.

Group Discussion is forum where people sit together and discuss the issue administered to them with the common objective of discovering it in a wholesome way. Group Discussion can be divided into three broad categories based on the topic/ issue given for discussion.

1. Topic-based
2. Case –based
3. Article- based

Reading Digital Journals will improve the performance of the students in Group Discussion as it lays the foundation for the mentioned topics. The participants are given 10 - 15 minutes to read the article and are then asked to hold a regular GD of around 10 - 15 minutes on the article.

Performance Parameter in Group Discussion

1. Content
2. Communication
3. Group behaviour

#### 4. Leadership skills

The content aspect covers 'what to say' in a group discussion. communication pertains 'how to say' it. In a GD, listening is as important as speaking.

The three different aspect that student should take care of during Group Discussion:

1. Building their knowledge base
2. Generating ideas about topic
3. Improving

Reading Digital Journals will help the students to build their subject base. It will help to generate ideas about the topic and to improve their speaking skill.. Students those were silent in the previous class are interested to speak after reading digital journals.

#### 3. Benefits of using Digital Journals in English Language Teaching

1. are an adult medium that students of all ability levels can be proud to be seen reading?
2. deal in what's happening here and now, providing motivation for reading and discussion.
3. make learning fun.
4. are extremely flexible and adaptable to all curriculum areas and grade levels.
5. bridge the gap between the classroom and the "real" world.
6. build good reading habits that will last a lifetime.
7. is a cost-effective way to educate?
8. contain practical vocabulary and the best models of clear, concise writing.

We can teach grammar, vocabulary and the four skills (LSRW). Digital journals are the living textbooks which give practical knowledge and confidence to face the society freely and fearlessly.

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