OXFORD

Designing activities based on selfies, street art, and internet memes

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Selfies, street art and memes

What makes them good topics for teenagers?









In this session

1. Selfie theme words

6. Graffiti mind maps

2. Selfie spot-the-difference

7. Controversial street art

3. Selfie speech bubbles

8. Explaining memes

4. Selfie prompts

9. Meme contests

5. Graffiti back stories

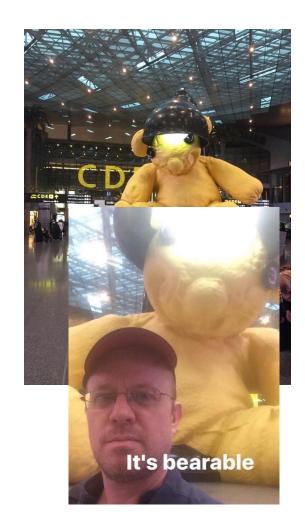
10. Story-telling with memes



Where are you?

Doha airport. My flight is in nine hours

Oh no! How's the airport?





1. Selfie theme words

- Give students a theme word, e.g. Summer
- They take a selfie outside class to demonstrate the word's meaning – or to show an association they have with the word
- Collect and comment
- → Work in pairs. Take a selfie to illustrate the phrase back to school
- → Compare and comment



2. Selfie spot-the-difference

- Students find a selfie on their phones which was taken at school
- In class they try to recreate that selfie as accurately as possible
- Compare the two images side-by-side
- Write down as many differences as they can





3. Group-selfie speech bubbles

- Select an area of language to focus on, e.g. Asking questions with 'can'
- In small groups, students take a group selfie
- Get them to add appropriate text and share





4. Selfie prompts

- Get each student to think of a survey question, e.g. What's the best thing that happened to you this week?
- Ask them to take a selfie with the question added
- Invite others to respond in writing

 use a notebook to collect the
 answers or get them to send a
 selfie back





5. Graffiti back stories

- Get students to take a photo of some street art
- Ask them to invent a remarkable back story for each picture. Ask:

Who was the artist?

What is it about?

Why did they do it? / Who is it for?

What happened as a result?



Display and compare ideas



6. Graffiti mind maps

Graffiti: art or vandalism?



- Compare all the images used in activity 5
- Ask students to categorise each image: art or vandalism?
- Discuss in pairs
- In groups, students work on mindmaps:

Graffiti = ART

Or

Graffiti = VANDALISM



7. Controversial street art

- Students research street artists and find an image to share
- Get them to discuss by making mobile video recordings



Banksy



Pawel Kuczynski



Blu



8. Explaining memes

Student presentations

- Select a meme
- Provide relevant background info and explain usage
- Make a presentation containing examples





8. Explaining memes

Example: Success Kid

- Background (knowyourmeme.com):
 - adorable image of a kid (Sammy) with a fistful of sand;
 first appeared in 2008; popularity peaked in 2012
- Usage:
 - To celebrate life's small, sweet, personal victories

Examples:



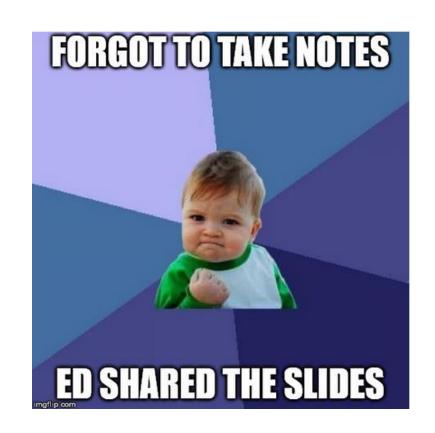






9. Meme contests

- Students use a meme generator (e.g. imgflip.com/memegenerator) to create their own version of memes
- Meme content should refer to your class or studied materials
- Create a gallery and vote for favourites





10. Story-telling with memes

 Create a set of slides containing five different meme templates (e.g. Unhelpful High School Teacher, Grumpy Cat, Not Bad, Challenge Accepted, Success Kid)











- Students create a story incorporating all five memes
- Tell the story as a slide presentation
- Use the meme slides to emphasise key events

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Slides here:

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