



Instagram Travel Blog

Using Social Media in the EFL Classroom

Description of the Task: EFL classroom, secondary school (grade 8 - 12/13)

Create an Instagram posting or story about a day trip to a city of your choice.

Included activities:



Choose city



Research



Select information



Create post



Upload

Goals:

- **Intercultural competence:** Get information about cities, countries and other cultures
- **Research skills:** Gathering information about a location
- **Digital literacy:** Getting familiar with the platform Instagram and its features
- **Social skills:** Learning how to behave and interact on social media

Why using social media in educational settings?

Instagram can be seen as a social network with the purpose to share media with others. It allows students to practice digital storytelling in ways that other social media platforms may fall short.

Benefits of the use of social media in education:

- Communication between student and teacher is important for the development of the learner (**feedback function**)
- Social networks as opportunity to increase students' engagement (**motivation**)
- Possibility to access learning material regardless of time and place (**differentiation**)
- Source of boredom mainly due to lack of interaction → Social media can increase **interaction time**

Challenges due to the use of social media:

- Addiction, less movement and lack of concentration (**health issues**)
- Awareness about dangers of the internet (**privacy & data security**)
- Less focus on verbal and non-verbal communication (**social skills**)



Quantity:

1. Variation of the amount of slides in the posting or the story
2. Variation of the amount of written text (e.g. weekend trip)

Differentiation and Individualization:

Quality: The task offers the opportunity to include a variation of levels of **difficulty**.

Level 1: Fill-in the gaps, pre-structured posting

Level 2: The students plan a day trip. In their posting they have to create a list of activities or sights they would visit.

Level 3: While planning they should consider how to get from place to place.

Other possibilities to increase **difficulty**:

- Implementing grammatical aspects (tense, aspect)
- Implementing literary devices (metaphor, rhetorical questions)

Participatory Structure:

Intended as individual task (group/pair work possible)

Content: Every student has the opportunity to work on a content of **their choice** by selecting a city or town.

By selecting the information they want to present in their posting or story, they can **set the focus** of their work.

Methods and Media: The student can choose between creating a travel advise as a posting or story on Instagram. They can vary their presentation of information by adding **videos, pictures, music** or a **voice over**.

Special Needs:

The students could write the text in their L1 and afterwards use **ressources** to translate it into English.

Sources: All sources can be found in the following document:
<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AoCz3SQdH8Mgp34-0h2JxEpQaOmX?e=HCLc3h>