

Lesson Plan 15 | Form 2 | Discussion of Project Ideas

Objective

Students will suggest and discuss different long-term potential project ideas, to be done in groups during class.

Warm-up

None.

Presentation

None.

Guided Practice

Inform the students that you are considering splitting the class into separate project-based groups, and are interested in hearing their ideas for projects to be worked on. Write a few ideas down on the board, such as:

- website for the school
- hardware project (i.e., using Raspberry Pis, basic sensors, etc.)
- Python game

and so on. Also solicit ideas from students, accepting those that are honestly feasible. For those that are not, explain why they are not feasible (time, money, resources, student knowledge level) but encourage them to keep thinking ambitiously.

After enough ideas have been written down on the board, ask students to tear out a piece of paper. Have them write their name on it and list their top two project choices. After they hand in their preferences, assign them their preferred group as long as two or three others also preferred it. Ideally, the class will be split into two or three, but not more, project groups.

In addition, remind students that they will need to persevere when working on their projects. Switching projects will only be allowed once a month, and only with instructor approval and approval of the group they wish to enter. Convey to the students that the projects should be fun, but they will be given graded assessments related to their project as they work on it.

Independent Practice

None.

Closing

None.

In Hindsight

03/01/2017: This worked well for stream A; all students were enthusiastic about doing projects instead of traditional class-wide lesson plans, and suggested quite a few ideas. Many of these were of a mechanical nature (flashlight, robot, drone, etc.) and had to be refused due to resource, time, and students' knowledge constraints. After surveying the students, the top three stream A project preferences were: creating a school website, creating school IDs for all students at the school, and creating a game using Python.

03/06/2017: Stream B was also enthusiastic about doing group projects rather than continuing with individual lesson plans. They split into five projects based on their preferences: school website, creating school IDs (inspired by stream A), a Python game, a program for calculating grades, and a lite version of Facebook.