

NUFS Workshop 2008

Newsletter No. 13

Final Presentation

Date: March 28, 2009, 14:30-17:30,

March 29, 2009, 9:30-12:30

Venue: Conference room at Irago Garden Hotel

The number of participants: 19

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Abstract: Each action research group member made their final presentation on their action research. They reported what they did, what happened, what they learned, future issues and so on. They had a great time at Koijigahama beach after that.



Comments from the participants

1. What do you think of the action research project you have participated in? Did it help you to improve your teaching skills?

- This was my first AR and I have been puzzled for the first 6 months before I get used to it. Even though I'm still in the middles of struggling to improve my teaching skills, I can at least feel that I have tried many new things in my classes.
- I would have stuck to my old way of teaching which I got used to without the action research. Although I have still may troubles to face to change my teaching, I'm sure I'm changing in the right direction.
- Without the action research program, I would not have improved the way I teach and would have missed chances to learn more effective ways to teach English and other related matters.
- This year, I tried out several in-class ER activities and observed how students developed their reading habits. I attended the monthly workshops and I had to reflect the activities and monitor students reading, which was a great help. If I hadn't worked on the project, I wouldn't have reflected classes. Though the action research project, I started to reflect what I had done and learned from my students.

2. How was a monthly report and presentation?

- I am not used to giving a speech in front of people and still having a hard time to report things clearly. I hope to be able to improve my skills of giving presentations as the times goes on.
- They were tough but gave me opportunities to reflect on my past and future class design.



- I'm not good at making a report. It's not easy for me to focus on a certain point in teaching and explain the results.
- I learned how to modify the lesson and how to analyze the lesson plan from other teachers. It was also very helpful to listen to the reports from other teachers. I always got great ideas from them.
- It motivated me to keep studying. Interaction in presentation improved my English and made me confident. It gave me a hint to motivate students and made them confident as well.

3. How do you feel of a monthly workshop? Did you learn any good ideas from the instructor? Which one(s) did you like the best? What kinds of topics do you want for future workshops?

- I really enjoyed monthly workshops. It's great to have opportunities to receive so many different teachers' instructions. I am interested in curriculum designing and am looking forward to attending the coming workshop of this title.
- The morning workshops were good stimulation and warm-up to the afternoon action research. Ms. Yamanaka's workshop gave me courage to continue extensive reading.
- I enjoyed attending the workshops every month. I'd like to keep attending it to get good ideas from instructors and other attendants.
- It was a great opportunity to take a lecture from university teachers. I can get new teaching methods and theory. Unfortunately, I attended only half of the workshops this year. Among them, Junko Yamanaka and Suzanne Bonn are the best. Next year, I want to learn more about extensive reading, alternative assessments and computer projects.
- As I was impressed by Ms. Yamanaka's extensive reading workshop, I decided to try to teach it. I would like to learn vocabulary learning with learning grammar.
- Each workshop gave me new insights for teaching and often helped me recall what I had learned before but forgotten. I found the workshop about vocabulary, extensive reading and remotivation the most useful. I would be happy if there was a workshop about classroom dynamics.

4. How can we improve this action research project? Please write your comment/advice.

- Through this program, I find that I am not the only one who have problems teaching. I cannot ask more for this great opportunity I get from this workshop.
- This time in final gathering, I happened to be in the group where I had the two teachers of academic high school and I was able to share the problems. I'd rather get together with the teachers with similar teaching situations.
- I'd like to focus on a certain topic and discuss it with other participants more during the action research session.
- This year, I didn't set up good research questions. I'd like to know about what kind of data I need and how to collect data to prove the students' performance. I'd also like to know how to analyze the students' comments.
- I think in mid/final action research presentation, each presenter should clearly show how the approach has changed in the course of time.



Thank you for your cooperation to the NUFS Workshop 2008.