



## Activity 4:

### Reflection about creativity Creative and innovative strategies for celebration of International Days in AE

#### 1. Reflection about creativity

We all have creativity to a greater or lesser extent and we can find it in all the tasks we perform, not only in the arts. To develop creativity does not only mean using techniques attractive or witty by themselves. Creative thought implies:

- **Fluency:** allowing divergent thinking; we are too used to stick to the first idea that comes out, without going any further to think whether it is really the best one. For example, thinking of all the possible ways of organising a party and not doing it as we have always done it.
- **Flexibility:** handling several alternatives in search of a wider point of view.
- **Originality:** thinking ideas nobody has ever had. Knowledge plays an important role in creativity, because original ideas emerge, very often, from establishing new relationships between existing or prior ideas, transforming pre-existing information or adding details to known situations.

*Creativity is intelligence having fun.*

Promoting creativity in our educational activities implies:

- Encouraging the participants to create as many ideas as possible about any given situation.



- Allowing them freedom to express any ideas, however crazy or wild they may sound.
- Encouraging them to find unusual ideas to solve any issue that arises.
- Stimulating them to listen to other people's opinions, because dialogue can enrich our view of the problems, change our perspective or viewpoint...
- Making them analyze and put into practice their proposals, and put across their remarks.

It is difficult to anticipate the best strategies to follow in order to develop creativity, because each group has different characteristics and something that was very useful once may not be useful again. Therefore, it is essential to first grasp the characteristics of the group and their interests and base future work on those aspects.

In that sense, art, as the expression of human spirit and builder of ideas, is a powerful tool to achieve the educational objectives we set out to. Activities that focus on art as expression of and stimulation for creativity broaden the capacity or ability to pose and identify problems, to propose strategies to solve them but also to pose them. What is original poses original questions and the mere acknowledgment or definition of a problem can by itself be considered a creative act.

For all those reasons, when thinking about activities for celebration of Local/National/International Days, we will build on the potential capability of every person to express ideas, reflections, thoughts... in a creative manner.

We will carry out activities that awaken interest about the subject, promote discussion and dialogue, participation, analysis and understanding of concepts and of the environment, comparison and contrast, development of



conclusions... Depending on the size of the group, we will choose those activities that best allow, every time, the creative expression of all its members.

## **2. Creative and innovative strategies for celebration of International Days in AE**

1. Discuss an existing poster about the chosen subject: what does it make them think of, why did the author choose those words, those fonts... Create their own poster in which to show what it means to them. They can write, draw, paint, make a collage... Finally, organize an exhibition of all the posters.
2. Look at a picture and write a poem inspired by it. Carry out a collective reading of the poems, having the picture as a background image.
3. Image reading: describe out loud what the chosen images suggest to them, what they express... and summarize it in a single word or sentence. Set a big, collective poster, with everybody's words and sentences.
4. Read and interpret the frames of a comic that prompt a discussion about a certain subject and create a new comic strip/cartoon to reflect graphically the conclusions reached. Set up a book with all the cartoons.
5. Describe several situations from two points of view. Split the class into groups and give each of them one of the cases, asking them to put themselves in the shoes of the person telling the story and write about what they feel about it. Next, pair off the groups with two viewpoints of the same story and have them share the feelings provoked by each



- point of view, compare them, assess what is it that makes all the difference and draw conclusions.
6. Put together a jigsaw puzzle to get information about a subject. Each person or group will receive a piece of the puzzle. Once the puzzle has been completed, open up a debate about its content and about the experience of putting it together jointly.
  7. Make a collage in group, with images that capture the meaning of the subjects we want to tackle. Search the images in magazines the Internet, etc. Words or sentences can be inserted that show what the members of the group think about the subject.
  8. Match images and texts and say the reasons for the matchings.
  9. Listen to songs, analyze the meaning of the words and relate them to the subject matter. They can write new words for the melodies, extract significant sentences and write them down on posters...
  10. Brainstorm, lists of conclusions, lists of definitions and characteristics of the subject matter...
  11. Explain on a poster or collage the meaning of an image and the text that accompanies it. Exhibit the images and texts together with the posters.
  12. Tell tales or legends related to the subject matter.
  13. Origami with words: use existing words to invent new words and concepts to work about the subject matter, write down their meaning and a drawing of them. Make a dictionary with all the new words.



14. Write a manifesto, to be read during a public event organized at the institution.
15. Organize a picnic, exchange recipes ...
16. Select images related to the subject matter, write the captions.
17. Role playing about the subject, cast the participants as the different characters in the play. Share the results in a theatre festival....
18. Write the script of an advertisement about the subject matter. Record a video, show it on a poster...
19. Choose music to represent the subject matter, organise a recital, concert or record a CD.
20. Organise a gymkhana or a board game such as *snakes and ladders* to be played by several teams who will have to overcome challenges, answer questions, etc. in order to get to the end.
21. Collect poems from all over the world that deal with a given subject.
22. Express the ideas in handicrafts.
23. Propose a subject of conflict and watch films or documentaries that show all points of view.
24. Make interviews to people about a subject and then make a documentary with them.



25. Peace is the way: draw a road with footprints in it, and write in each footprint something that contributes to peace.

