

Using MyLinE to Develop a Community of Student Writers: Correct My English

Introduction

- 1) The following guidelines show how an instructor could use MyLinE to develop a community of learners learning how to write.
- 2) The approach draws from the concept of community of practice (CoP) or community of learners (Wenger, 1998) which sees learning as socially-mediated actions in which members of a CoP contribute knowledge to, and at the same time learn from, others in the community.

Introduction

- 3) The activity – **Correct My English**– encourages students to view themselves as part of a community of learners and their peers as potential resources for learning how to write.

Introduction

- 4) The activity encourages students to submit a short part of their own writing and invites their peers to correct their text.
- 5) Other students read the text posted and help correct one or more parts of the text. Other students may 're-correct' a correction if they feel that the wrong feedback has been given.
- 6) Instructors are encouraged to participate in the correction.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Step 1

- i) Encourage/Assign your students to post a part of what they are writing in your class (letter, abstract, essay, memo, part of a technical report, etc.) to the 'Correct My English' sub-section in the 'Lounge' section of MyLinE.
- ii) Tell the students that their piece of writing will be corrected by other users of MyLinE.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Note:

- a) Ask your students to read the guidelines in the 'Correct My English' sub-section on how postings should be made.
- b) Decide whether the postings are compulsory or voluntary. If it is compulsory, decide how many postings each student should make in one semester.
- c) It will be useful to motivate the students by telling them about the benefits of learning together.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Step 2

- i) Ask students to correct one or more parts of a text posted.
- ii) Give them some suggestions on what they could correct. For example, punctuation marks, choice of words, grammar, passive sentence, etc.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Note:

- a) It would be helpful if you try it out at least once in class first, using a sample text, so that they have a rough idea of how corrections can be done.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Variations

- i) You could divide the class into small groups where each group is assigned to correct only one aspect of the writing. For example, all those in Group A will correct the spelling while those in Group B will correct the tenses. After a week or two, the two groups will swap jobs.

Correct My English: Guidelines

Variations

- ii) You could conduct this activity according to the different stages in your writing class. For example, if the lecture is on using passive sentences, then the students will only look at the use of passive sentences.
- iii) If you wish to restrict the 'Correct My English' activity to your class, you could start your own sub-section in the ELSP information site for your institution. (refer to 'Step-by-Step Guidelines to Starting a Forum' under Teachers Guide)

Comments & Suggestions

Please send your comments, suggestions, queries, experience, etc. to:

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