

Can Do: Teaching Language for Thinking

*Thinking, Learning,
Understanding, Reading, Speaking,
Listening, Writing, Asking
Opinions, Stating Opinions,
Agreeing, Disagreeing, Reporting,
Reflecting, Building Confidence,
Understanding Current Issues,
Discussing Current Issues,
Thinking, Learning*

TESL Ontario Conference 2009

Copyright Jane Merivale, Dara Cowper, 2009. This work is the intellectual property of the author. Permission is granted for this material to be shared for non-commercial, educational purposes, provided that this copyright statement appears on the reproduced materials and notice is given that the copying is by permission of the author. To disseminate otherwise or to republish requires written permission from the author.

Table of Contents

Student Comments in Written Reports	p. 3
Sample Survey Assignment	p. 4
Sample Data Collection Chart	p. 10
Sample Chart	p. 11
Sample from a Written Report	p. 12

Student Comments in Written Reports

Increased Interest in the course, in political issues, in each other

Classmates' Comments / What I learned while conducting the survey and writing the report

..this survey created an opportunity to meet least ten students very closely and got their ideas and views in Canadian context class. Second, these surveys were the way of exchange information, own opinions, and different views. I collected lot of information which were really important and helpful for me.

In this multicultural survey, I learned lots of things which I didn't know earlier. First of all, I learned about nine issues of Canada. These issues are most useful for the citizens and immigrants. I learned the rules and regulation of the nine issues of Canada which will help me in many ways as an immigrant.

This assignment permitted me to improve all of my EAPP skills such as listening, writing, speaking, and reading. Also, that helped me to get to know the other students in the class, and know what is important for them. I enjoyed heard the interesting comments, and most of the time that make me realize that there is no good, or bad answer. This survey made me understood a lot about the issues in Canada.

Reflection / Personal Experience Conducting the Survey

In this survey I have learned about the socio-economic and political trend in Canada. Therefore, increase my interest to know more than before as it is my second home.

While doing this assignment, I had many new observations. I realized that many people care about the economy and not the other issues because they are not relating to them. This made me feel disappointed because it shows that we're a bit selfish and inconsiderate.

From this survey assignment, I personally learned a lot of experience from my classmates.....when I went to ask for an interview to my friends, they responded cordially and answered all my questions without any hesitation. Moreover, they made necessary comments on the different issues.

First, I thought that this project is too difficult for me. I also thought I couldn't do this all. When I started to do this project, I came to know about many social issues. It gave me lot of knowledge. During doing my survey, I realized we should do something for poor people. Slowly, I got interest in this survey that how other students think about the social issues. This also enhanced my experience and English improvement.

Multiculturalism Survey Assignment: Focus on Federal Issues (25%)

Introduction

Canada is a multicultural country. Indeed, it is like a mirror, reflecting the countries of the world. Toronto is the focal point of the country's multicultural nature as the majority of new immigrants settle in Toronto, at least at first.

Our classrooms at Centennial are like a micro city – reflecting the number of different cultures we have here in the city. As a result, it will be very interesting to see how our classroom reflects the opinions and view of the larger community.

Rationale

In completing this assignment, you will have the opportunity to

- practice all four skills in English (reading, writing, listening, speaking)
- prepare and conduct a survey
- design visual aids to present information
- discuss current issues in Canadian society

Steps for Preparing and Conducting your Survey

1. Pre-Reading

- a) Read *The Issues* article.
- b) Study and understand the vocabulary list accompanying the article

2. Preparing the Survey

- a) write 5 survey questions about the issues listed in *The Issues* article.
- b) have your survey questions checked for grammar, mechanics, and clarity

Example:

In your opinion, which political issue is the most important issue?

3. Conducting the Survey

- a) Survey 10 members of the class. Through your survey questions, find out the following:
 - which of the 9 issues identified are ranked as most important and which are least important among the students you survey
 - which political party is the most popular and which political party is the least popular among the students you survey
- b) record in writing a few interesting comments or explanations made by your classmates during the survey. Be prepared to include some of these in your written report.

Steps for Presenting and Summarizing the Survey Results

Part A **List your questions at the beginning of your report.**

Part B **Visual Report**

Present your survey results clearly and accurately using the most appropriate visual aids (bar graphs, pie charts or tables). Use your computer lab time to complete Part B. You will need to include at least two visual aids to show the ranking of the issues and to show the political party that is most favoured among those you surveyed.

Part C **Written Report**

Write three paragraphs

1. Description of Results

In the first paragraph (12 - 15 sentences), describe the results of your survey. Be sure to use appropriate grammar and phrases for reporting results from a survey. See the attached page for examples.

2. Classmates' Comments

In the second paragraph (8-10 sentences), comment on what you learned while conducting the survey and while writing your written report. Include interesting comments from your classmates where appropriate.

3. Reflection

Finally, in a third, brief paragraph (6 – 8 sentences), comment on your experience while doing this assignment. (How did you feel? What did you find most difficult / easiest to do? What did you learn about yourself?)

Part D Preparing to hand in your assignment

- Type your assignment.
- Proofread your assignment carefully.
- Hand in Part A, Part B and Part C in a duo tang with a cover page and table of contents.
- Follow EAPP Assignment Presentation Format.

Important Note:

The answers students give are to be used for the purposes of this project only, and students do not need to give their personal opinion if they would rather not. You may use initials instead of complete names when reporting the results of your survey.

Useful Phrases for reporting results (finding and conclusions) from a survey.

Determiners used for quantifying responses and comparisons

least / the least
most / the most
most of
almost
more than
less than
many of
far more / much more
a large number of
a small number of

Use the past tense for reporting

To be: was / were

X % thought that

X % said that

X% reported that

X % felt that

Sample Sentences

1. Most of the students reported that..... was the best / most / least...
2. A few students felt that was the highest / biggest / poorest...
3. Thirty % of the students said that ...
4. Some students
5. Almost all the students surveyed
6. None of the students agreed with/disagreed with...

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the best phrase.

Most the most most of the mostly
80% of the most people many of the people

1. _____ prefer to live within a hundred kilometers of the Canada/US border.
2. The Santa Clause parade is _____ watched parade.
3. _____ respondents preferred living in cities.
4. _____ in Chicago voted for Barack Obama.
5. In Florida, it was _____ the Black voters who helped Obama.
6. _____ powerful car is the Porsche.

Survey Assignment Evaluation

EAPP Assignment Presentation Format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cover page • table of Contents • page numbers • typed • neat 	<p>_____ / 5</p>	
Part A list of questions included (grammaratically correct)	<p>_____ / 2</p>	
Part B 2 Visual Aids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a title • labeled clearly • information is accurate • complete • neat 	<p>_____ / 10</p>	
Part C Written Report Paragraph 1: <i>Description of Results</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 – 15 sentences • describes results of survey as shown in chart/graph included in part A • appropriate use of phrases/grammar to report results Paragraph 2: <i>Classmates' Comments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 – 10 sentences • includes details on what was learned while conducting the survey and while writing the report • details are clearly stated and thoughtful Paragraph 3: <i>Reflection</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 – 8 sentences • reflection is thorough and thoughtful Overall Grammar and Mechanics:	<p>_____ / 5</p> <p>_____ / 5</p> <p>_____ / 3</p> <p>_____ / 10</p>	
Total Mark	<p>_____ / 40</p>	

(25% of final grade)

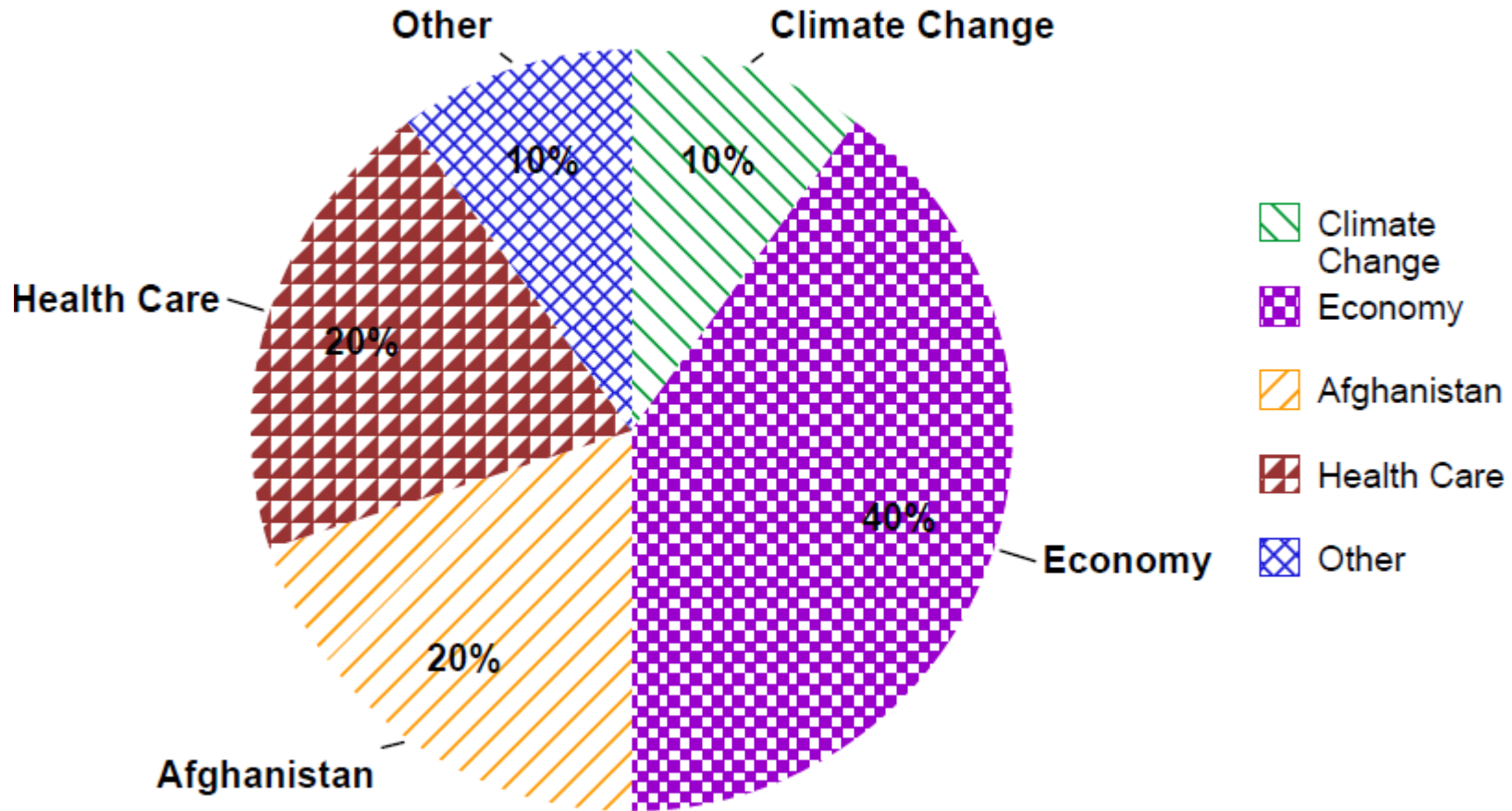
Part B

Visual Reports:

Data: **What issue is the most important issue in your opinion?**

Initial	Poverty	Climate change	Cities	Economy	Afghanistan	Fiscal imbalance	Health Care	U.S. Relations	Immigration
N									✓
J				✓					
S	✓								
F									✓
J				✓					
D							✓		
I				✓					
M				✓					
T							✓		
H							✓		
Total	1	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	2
%	10%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	30%	0%	20%

Issues Ranked Most Important



A Sample from Part C: Written Report

Results of my Survey

There were many things which made me surprise when I was doing my survey, and it showed me the different ideas of my classmates'. First, most of the people chose the economy as the most important issue, and everyone had the perfect reason to explain why they chose it. For example, D said the economy is the key of the whole society because the bad stage will affect everything, such as employment, societal security, and welfare, etc. She showed the strong opinion to explain how important the economy is. The rest of the people had totally different idea about which is the most important one. S chose Afghanistan because a lot of people died, and government spent too much money. But that was different from L's choice which was the Immigration issue because she is immigrant of Canada, and she will live here for a long time. The person chose the Health Care issue because he thought that health is always important for everyone of this world. On the other hand, the choices of the least important issue also showed the various ideas of 10 people. 60% thought that the U.S. Relations issue was not so important because they won't go to the US and never care about that. The Climate Change issue was the last thing R wants to care about because she thought that people could do nothing but accept the fact of the Climate Change. S chose the Fiscal Imbalance issue because she believed the government will take of that for us. The last choice of the least important issue is Afghanistan which was chosen by B and L who didn't know much about it. In the end of the survey, 50% voted for the Conservative Party after they read the article of the issues. The Green Party which got two votes was the same as the Liberal Party which is the strongest party of Canada. There was only one person voted for the New Democratic Party. I won't forget this survey for a long time because it taught me too much.

(Rick Wang)