

PBL in English Listening and Speaking II Course

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This is a presentation of a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) innovative teaching course in English at National Kaohsiung Normal University. The course, part of the 113-year Higher Education Deepening Project, aimed to enhance students' English proficiency, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills through PBL methods.

Course Design and Implementation

1

Course Introduction

The PBL course aimed to improve language skills and critical thinking for English learners. It incorporated the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help students become active global citizens.

2

PBL Activity Themes

Five main PBL activities were included, covering topics from reducing destructive behavior at famous tourist sites to developing leadership skills for English majors.

3

PBL Process

Each PBL activity included teacher presentations, student group work on problem solving, feedback and evaluation, and student reflection.

Importance of PBL in English Teaching

Global Context

English is the primary international language in today's globalized world. Proficiency in English has become crucial for effective communication, collaboration, and problem-solving in our interconnected world.

As a lingua franca, English serves as a bridge across diverse cultural and professional contexts, enabling international dialogue in academia, business, diplomacy, and technological innovation.

Advantages of PBL

PBL is a student-centered pedagogy that engages learners in solving real-world problems while promoting language acquisition and critical thinking skills.

It requires students to collaborate on open-ended problems, enhancing their critical thinking, effective communication, and knowledge application abilities.

By immersing students in authentic, complex scenarios, PBL transforms language learning from passive reception to active, meaningful engagement, preparing learners for real-world communication challenges.



PBL Case Studies

Reducing Destructive Behavior at Tourist Sites

Students explored ways to protect cultural heritage and proposed innovative solutions.

Campus Life Adaptation for Non-Native English Speakers

Students developed strategies and resources to support students' mental health and academic success.

Impact of Escapist Literature on Society

Students explored types of escapist literature and their effects on readers and society.

Developing Leadership Skills for English Majors

Students conducted SWOT analyses to identify their leadership skills and set 5 and 10-year goals.



PBL Final Case Presentation: Cultural Differences and Global Problem Solving



Activity Overview

Students explored solving current global issues through comparing cultural differences, fostering cross-cultural communication skills and global perspectives.



Learning Objectives

Students heightened their awareness of cultural differences, developed cross-cultural communication skills, and strengthened ability to solve global problems.



Implementation Method

Students chose specific topics, utilized case studies, to deepen understanding and further analysis of problem-solving methods in different cultural contexts.

Course Recommendations

Time Management

Provide students with more time for problem solution discussion and preparation so as to present a more in-depth analysis.

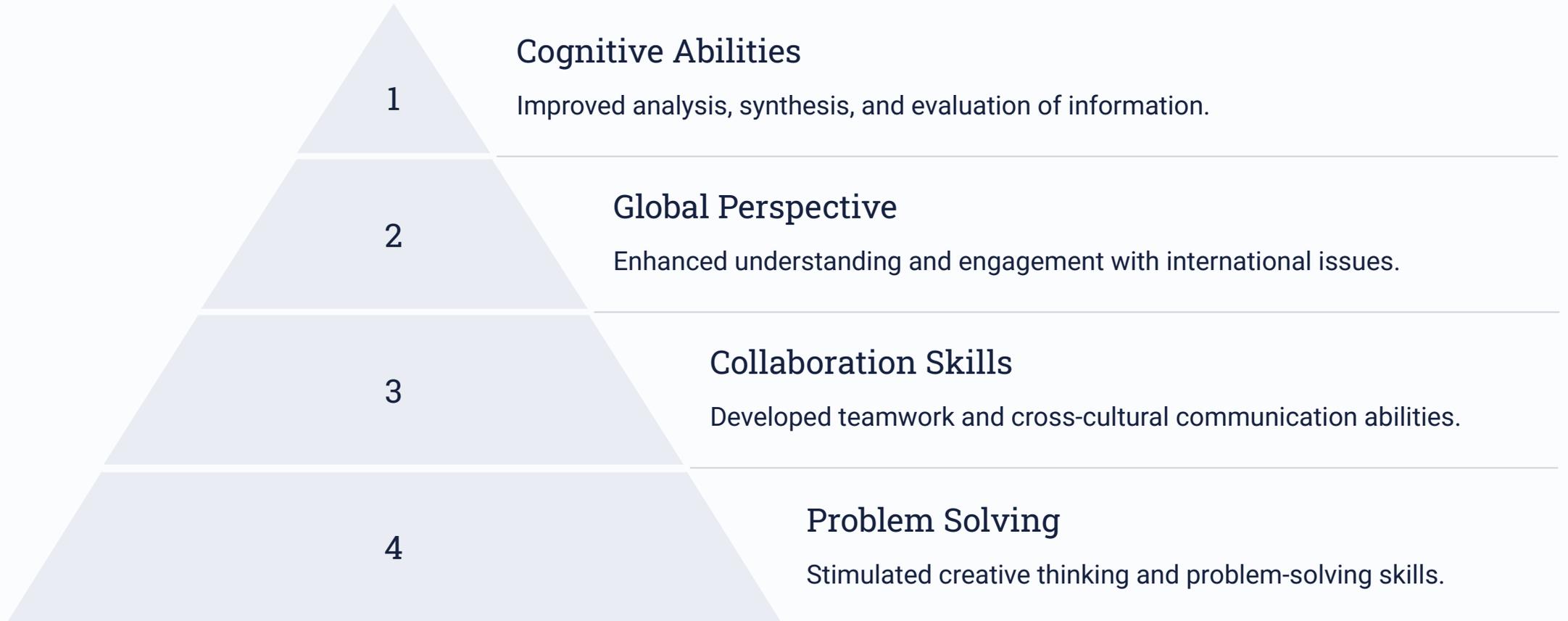
Student Engagement

Encourage students to brainstorm "problems" so as to increase engagement and participation.

Critical Thinking

Guide students to use "human" critical thinking especially when collaborating with AI.

Benefits of PBL for Students



Future Directions



1

Course Integration

Incorporate PBL methods into more English courses.

2

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Promote PBL projects in collaboration with other disciplines.

3

Global Connections

Establish international PBL collaboration projects.

Conclusion and Outlook

This innovative PBL teaching course effectively enhanced students' English proficiency, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. By addressing real-world problems, students not only improved their English abilities but also developed a global citizen mindset.

Future plans include optimizing PBL course design, exploring interdisciplinary integration, and investigating possibilities of combining PBL with new AI technologies. The PBL teaching method not only helps cultivate students' English skills but also lays the foundation for them to become leaders in a globalized world.