**Teaching Experience**

**I touch the future. I teach.**

**Christa McAuliffe**

Teaching is a special calling. It is not a job well-suited to everyone. If you want to be an effective teacher you must have high expectations. And I do believe that every student can succeed and I work hard to prove it.

Semenchuk Liubov Marianivna, an English teacher in Borshchiv Comprehensive school #1, graduated from Chernivtsi National University named after Yurii Fedkovych in 1989. The teaching experience is 27 years.

**The educational philosophy.**

**Educating the mind without educating the heart is no educating at all.**

**Aristotle**

The new approach to learning foreign languages and importance of developing fluent speaking have influenced the choice of methodological topic. It is **“Teaching vocabulary using** **different creative methods as the way of students’ motivation**.” The previous topic was “Formation communicative skills.” Working on it the teacher understood that good communicative skills can be developed only on the basis of rich vocabulary. That’s why she has decided to work on this topic.

There are three steps in the research work.

**Step 1**. Use synonyms and antonyms.

**Step 2**. Develop your writing skills.

**Step 3.** Learn topical vocabulary creatively.

**Step 1.** Synonyms and antonyms add spice to our communication, broaden the students’ vocabulary, and boost creativity and words powers. If every person, a place or an object were expressed with the same word over and over again, then reading, speaking and writing would be extremely boring.

How to teach synonyms and antonyms? We know that it is easier to learn and remember words when they are organized in groups of related meaning. So the teacher compiled the vocabulary list of synonyms and antonyms describing personality.

**For example:** ***merry – cheerful, sunny, smiling, lively, carefree, joyful****.*

**Opposites:** ***miserable.***

***Attractive – good-looking, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking,***

***Gorgeous,* (Br.) *fit,* (Am.) *cute.***

But ‘***attractive***’ can be used in another combination.

**Attractive career – *appealing, inviting, tempting, pleasing, interesting****.*

**Opposites:** ***unattractive, ugly, uninviting.***

Also the teacher developed different training exercises for making vocabulary active.

1. Match the synonyms with one of the adjectives.
2. Choose the best synonyms for each word.
3. Choose the correct synonym from four options.
4. Choose the correct antonym from the four options.

In teacher’s opinion, the most interesting teaching strategy is a game. So there are some games which can boost students’ activity and maintain their focus.

The game “Bingo”. The goal is to learn antonyms. Students get envelopes with the list of words and their task is to make antonyms pairs. The child who finishes the first exclaims ”Bingo”. The winner gets a Smiley.

High school students like the game “Auction”. It is a very exciting and effective strategy to focus on lexical competence.

**For example:** **special** (a very special person). Students should find the synonyms as many as possible (**exceptional, unusual, outstanding, unique**). The last one wins and gets the prize.

Learning synonyms and antonyms should be a part of all vocabulary building process. Why? There are three reasons. The first, it increases the number of words we retain.

The second, they are easier to learn and remember. The third, knowing many different synonyms and antonyms can help you improve writing skills.

**Step 2.** Develop writing skills. It is the way to encourage developing creative skills of gifted students, include every form of writing and check their skills.

It is important to mention the words of Somerset Maugham ,**’All the words I use in my stories can be found in the dictionary – it’s just a matter of arranging them in right sentences**.’

So it is the teaching goal in developing writing skills. There are different types of writing: fiction, biographies, essays, poetry, news items and reports. Our students should learn each of them and know how to write them. The teacher teaches her students to follow the basic steps:

1. Choose and limit the subject.
2. Write down the ideas.
3. Outline.
4. Write a draft.
5. Revise and write a final draft.

This section includes the samples of students’ works: “The problems of One-parent Family”, “Death Penalty. What is Your Point of View?”, “What are the Values of Life?”, “The Best Things of Our Life are Free of Charge.”

The introduction of English Independent Assessments has influenced her to write the manual about writing letters. Not every student will become a professional writer, but everyone will have an occasion to write letters. In this manual there are techniques and strategies of writing formal and informal letters.

**Step 3.** Learn topical vocabulary creatively.

This step proves that it is very important not only to broaden students’ vocabulary but to make passive vocabulary active one based on related word group areas.

Teaching vocabulary strategies are of different types.

The teacher practices writing cinquains.

The model of this poem:

**A word**

**Two adjectives to describe this word.**

**Three verbs to describe the action.**

**A simple sentence**

**Your association or feeling.**

The example of a cinquain:

**A teacher.**

**Creative, patient.**

**Teach, encourage, support.**

**He/she boosts creativity.**

**Future.**

It is important to believe that every student can succeed. If you believe it, students will realize it. But you must find the way to success.

Zig Ziglar said, ”**If you want to reach a goal, you must ‘see the reaching’ in your own mind before you actually arrive at your goal.”**

So the teacher has built her own strategy:

1. Selection of teaching technologies.
2. Students’ creative skills development.
3. Formation of students’ motivation.
4. Students researching projects.
5. Self-analysis and self-evaluation.

She is involved in administration work. She has been a creative team colleagues leader for four years. The group works on the new strategies, techniques, records the progress of successful teachers. She has compiled manuals based on her teaching strategies:

1. **“Use Synonyms and Antonyms Describing Personality”**
2. **“Writing a Composition”**

It is important to mention the optional courses for the 6th and 10th forms, which were introduced in the schools of our district **(“Useful Grammar”, “Business English**”)

She is proud of her gifted and creative students. They show good results participating in the English Olympiads of the second and third rounds. They make projects, different surveys and participate in out-of-school activities.

A teacher can impact the students’ lives greatly. This goes much deeper than lessons that are being taught. So after-school activity is an integral part of her work. The teacher and her students organize parties, contests, English weeks and quizzes.

Each teacher can recount numerous highs in the teaching career. So, this teacher experienced many great moments teaching. She uses effective teaching strategies according to students’ age and abilities develop creative skills and encourage students’ activities. Students show good knowledge of mastering English.

**If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.**

**Christa McAuliffe**