

Victorian Working

Developed by Steve Cooke

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/victorianworking.pdf>

Last updated: 29th May 2009

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to promote inclusive education. We develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening . They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

	What the reformer says		A factory owner says	
	Opinion	Fact	Opinion	Fact
Length of hours	The working day for children is far too long.	Some older children work for fourteen hours a day.	A good strong child can work all day without any problems.	Children under 13 are only allowed to work for nine hours a day.
Safety	Factories are very dangerous places for children to work.	Some children get killed, crippled or badly injured at work	As long as children are sensible they are perfectly safe at work	Many children never have any accidents or injuries.
Pay	Children are paid very low wages even though they work very hard.	Some children earn only 5 shillings (25p) a week.	Children are very well paid, considering they are only young	Some children can earn 15 shillings (75p) a week.
Treatment	Factory owners treat children very cruelly.	Children are beaten if they are late for work or if they don't work fast enough	Factory owners are kind to the children and only punish them if they deserve it.	Many factory owners give the children food and presents at Christmas.
Health	Working in factories causes children to become very sick and unhealthy.	Many factory children die before they are sixteen years old.	Children who work in factories are just as healthy as other boys and girls.	Many children in factories are hardly ever sick or ill.

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The working day for children is far too long.

Some older children work for fourteen hours a day.

A good strong child can work all day without any problems.

Children under 13 are only allowed to work for nine hours a day.

Factories are very dangerous places for children to work.

Some children get killed, crippled or badly injured at work

As long as children are sensible they are perfectly safe at work

Many children never have any accidents or injuries.

Children are paid very low wages even though they work very hard.

Some children earn only 5 shillings (25p) a week.

Children are very well paid, considering they are only young

Some children can earn 15 shillings (75p) a week.

Factory owners treat children very cruelly.

Children are beaten if they are late for work or if they don't work fast enough

Factory owners are kind to the children and only punish them if they deserve it.

Many factory owners give the children food and presents at Christmas.

Working in factories causes children to become very sick and unhealthy.

Many factory children die before they are sixteen years old.

Children who work in factories are just as healthy as other boys and girls.

Many children in factories are hardly ever sick or ill.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my grave concerns about

.....
I think it is clear that

My main reason for calling for reform is that
For example, and
as a result

In addition to this
It is well documented that and
consequently

Furthermore,
This is clearly shown by
which means that

I know that many factory owners maintain that
.....
However, surely nobody can deny that
.....

If then
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