

Integrating Community Based Projects in the EFL Research Methodology Course

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Abstract. This research is meant to reflect on and to document the redesign and implementation process for the EFL Research Methods class using the CBL methodology. The first part of the research covers the during-design decisions the course designer had to make in relation to the initial communications with the community stakeholders; the nature and scope of the community project incorporated in the course plan; the project activity timeframes; and both the individual and team assessment schemes for project activities. The second part describes and classifies the challenges met during the implementation process. These challenges are classified into: 1) procedural challenges that have to do with the unified curriculum analysis form preparation to be used for collecting data by all teams working on the same language skill; and 2) quality-related challenges which have to do with striking the appropriate balance between knowledge, language competence, and life-long skills and the quality of the team project outcomes. Finally, the research highlights the skill gains for the course learners who are expected to become school teachers themselves in a matter of months.