

Pedagogical Toolbox

Educational tips

How to ensure pedagogical benefits from gamified homework?

Objective:

In order for the homework adventures to be pedagogical/educational in nature, teachers need to take a few things into account:

1. What are the intended learning targets and objectives for soft skills acquisition?
2. Under which circumstances will the learning process take place?

Various pedagogical benefits:

The relation to the **learning goals** is seen as crucial to solidify the learners' knowledge as they revise the course content. The teacher's aim is to use the context of the story to highlight the necessary knowledge and skills required for achieving pedagogical objectives. It is important that teachers focus on their lesson plan or curriculum and combine language topics with thematic areas, such as STEAM.

Through the reading of the homework adventures, students also practice **new vocabulary, grammar and syntax**. The teacher's goal is to explore in the writing of their stories, how some language skills can be enhanced.

After the Escape Room, teachers can test students' **soft skills**, which might include the personal attributes, personality traits, and time management that are needed for solving the adventure.

Soft skills which can be tested are: communication, creative thinking, time management, motivation and problem-solving.

The topic tackled in the homework adventure enables teachers to specify the knowledge they expect their students to acquire at the end of the experience.

How to conduct a pedagogical test for your homework adventure?

- Is the theme of your story clear?
- Is the theme of your narrative motivating enough for students?
- Is the vocabulary and terminology related to the theme that should be used?
- Does the story as a whole include a clear purpose, which fosters critical thought? For example: What do you want students to explore/understand or learn is clear?
- Does the homework adventure include the use of critical, resilient, and creative thinking skills and/or knowledge and skills prominent for the subject field?

The feedback is given in relation to learning goals, and it is the most important part of the pedagogical test.

To go further:

Demir, E. K. (2021). The Role of Social Capital for Teacher Professional Learning and Student Achievement: A Systematic Literature Review, [Online]. Available at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/educational-research-review>.

Doyle, A. (2020). What are Soft Skills? Definition and Examples of Soft Skills, [Online].

Available at: <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/what-are-soft-skills-2060852>.

