



International Lesson Plan Politics and Texts

Menlo students in the Ideology senior elective worked with World History students at Affiliated High School of Peking University-Dalton Academy in China.

Purposes:

1. To meet and learn from peers in a Chinese partner school.
2. To learn what we might about the perspectives offered by texts written in different countries.
3. To consider "isms" from different perspectives.

Overview:

The project is being conducted with two combined classes at PKU-Dalton Academy, both of which are taught by Mr. Jared Hall, an American teacher at the school. We will divide into eight groups, each made up of (approximately) two Menlo Students and two PKU-Dalton Academy students. The first part will be a "get-to-know" you video and paragraph in which you introduce yourselves; the second involves a sharing and analysis of texts; the third involves a response to an overarching question, involving an "ism" (or a clarifying, organizing, conceptual term) that best describes our country's system of governance or economics or culture.

Introductory videos and paragraphs:

- A. Create a video with your group introducing yourselves and your school to your cohort at Peking University High School – Dalton Academy. Show your cohort something of Menlo and tell about the school and yourselves.
- B. Also, to practice using Schoology discussion groups, write a paragraph to your cohort at PKU-Dalton. You might want to use your paragraph to repeat, reinforce, or complement what you show or say in the video. Here are some suggestions of questions you might address:
 1. *What are your names and grade?*
 2. *What are your main interests at school?*
 3. *What is your school like, and what is school generally like in U.S. / China?*
 4. *What kind of things do you do for fun?*
 5. *What is the popular music or fashion or movies right now.*

Text Analysis

- A. Find and scan (or type) one sample text of about 300-500 words on a major event in American history (such as the American Revolution or Civil War) Chinese history (such as *Opium Wars*, *Liang Qichao*, the *Guangxu emperor*, *Zou Rong*) or

American relations with China. Regarding the latter, the following would be good topics:

1. *American missionaries in China – 1860s*
2. *Chinese immigration in California – 1880s*
3. Extra-territoriality – 1890s
4. Boxer rebellion – 1900
5. *Chinese Civil War – 1945-1949*
6. Korean War - 1950-1953
7. Nixon's China visit – 1972

You are seeking a text that interests you and lends itself to interesting analysis. The italicized topics above indicate topics that the PKU-Dalton students have or will be studying. It might be interesting to join them in their studies, as it were, or to investigate new topics together. My hunch is it might be better to study subjects with which you are both somewhat familiar, but other options can be interesting, as well. We're all learning here.

B. Respond to the introduction of the cohort group and upload the text to your discussion group on Schoology along with a paragraph that does the following:

1. Cites your source.
2. States why your group selected the paragraph and the source.
3. Summarizes the source.
4. Answers one or both of the following questions:
 - a. *What does this text state about the U.S. or China or both?*
 - b. *What question or theme does it raise that can be asked of the other cohort?*

[A sample text and analysis is provided on Schoology under "Pages"]

Post an "ism"

- A. In 1-3 paragraphs explain or create an "ism" that best describes your country's system of governance or economics or culture. Why is this "ism" a good fit for your country?
- B. Respond to the cohort's post and goodbye's.

There might be a paper or test assessment integrating this project.