

VISUAL THINKING STRATEGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT CADETS

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The huge flow of information, the implementation of communicative activities learning process enriched the methodology of foreign language learning with the notion "intensive learning methods". The question arises about creating methods which would be aimed at the implementation of the tasks put forward by society. The analysis of research by domestic and foreign authors shows that the correct application of intensive methods makes it possible to achieve impressive results both in terms of the amount of material learned (develop students' listening and speaking skills in a foreign language using more lexical material compared to traditional methods), and in a shorter time (Березнева І.; Булгару Н. & Кузьменко Ю.; Patesan M. et al., Pryshupa Yu. & Konoplianyk L., etc.). Relying on erudition, acquired knowledge, experience, intuition, the teacher strives to present the necessary material in a concise form and in a short period of time and to achieve the set goal, which determines the principles, content, methods and means of teaching.

The integration of visual thinking strategies in teaching English to law enforcement cadets offers an innovative approach to language acquisition that enhances comprehension and communication skills. In the context of law enforcement training, where clear communication and quick decision-making are crucial, the use of visual tools can significantly improve cadets' understanding of complex legal terminology and enhance their ability to interact with the community. This article explores the benefits of using visual thinking strategies (VTS) in the language education of law enforcement cadets and how these strategies can be effectively implemented in training programs.

VTS is an educational approach that encourages learners to use images or visual prompts as tools for critical thinking and language development. The method involves asking learners to observe, describe, analyze, and interpret visual content such as photographs, videos, or diagrams and express their thoughts using language means. The core idea is that the visual elements stimulate cognitive processes that support vocabulary acquisition, understanding of abstract concepts, and improvement of verbal communication skills.

There are several benefits of using visualization in language learning. Here are some of the most important ones: - improved retention and recall as by creating mental images of the words and phrases. When the words are associated with something memorable and easy to recall, it is more likely to remember them; - enhanced understanding of the language as visualization can help develop a better understanding of the language; - increased motivation and confidence.

Law enforcement cadets are often required to use specialized language when documenting crimes, interacting with suspects, or presenting cases in court. The analyzed method can be particularly effective in helping cadets learn and retain complex legal terminology. By associating words with visual representations cadets can better understand the context and meaning of terms they might use in their daily routine. In addition, the nature of law enforcement requires keen observation skills and the ability to quickly analyze situations. Visual prompts in the form of crime scene photos, diagrams of legal procedures, or video footage of interrogations can help cadets think critically about various scenarios. This approach not only aids in language learning but also helps develop the ability to observe details and make appropriate judgments.

While traditional language learning can sometimes be passive, when cadets only read or listen, VTS can promote active engagement by requiring cadets to participate in discussions and

share their ideas. This interactive process not only improves language skills but also builds confidence in using English for communication in real-world law enforcement situations.

It is obvious that police officers are often required to interact with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. By using visual stimuli that include images of various communities, environments, and social contexts, mentioned strategy can promote a deeper understanding of cultural details. This is crucial for improving communication and fostering respectful interactions with the public which is essential in maintaining trust and safety between police officers and population.

VTS can be implemented in following situations: 1) while using crime scene images as it may serve as an effective method of incorporating images from real-life or simulated crime scenes. Cadets can be asked to describe what they see, discuss the potential actions of suspects, or propose how they would report the incident in English. This provides them with the vocabulary and the contextual understanding necessary for their future roles. 2) while using role-play with visual scenarios such as traffic stops, arrest procedures, or courtroom testimonies. Cadets could use charts, maps, or video to prepare for the types of situations they may face, while practicing the appropriate language to use in each case. 3) while incorporating visual legal texts such as the structure of a courtroom, the process of evidence gathering, or the steps in an interrogation. These diagrams help cadets visualize the processes they are learning about and improve their ability to explain them in English. 4) while analyzing multimedia case studies such video footage, audio recordings, and infographics which can be used to present law enforcement scenarios in a dynamic way. For instance, cadets can watch bodycam footage or listen to recorded witness testimonies in English, and then analyze the language used, possible mistakes. In language learning, visualization can be a powerful tool to help remember new vocabulary, grammar rules, and pronunciation. By creating mental images of the words and phrases a learner can improve retention and recall. Visualization can also help develop a better understanding of the language, as it helps to see how the words and phrases are used in context.

Conclusion. The power of visuals cannot be denied in the teaching-learning process. They are effective tools that help learners retrieve information and make it more concrete. Incorporating VTS into English language education for law enforcement cadets can lead to more effective learning and better communication skills. By using the power of visual aids, this method not only enhances vocabulary acquisition but also sharpens critical thinking, observation, and cultural awareness. While visualizing and interpreting pictures of any type, students are free to express themselves and explore the new elements in their own way. As law enforcement cadets are trained to handle complex situations, having the ability to think visually and communicate clearly in English it is an important skill that will serve them throughout their career.

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