

Writing!

David Herz - Levels B1-C1

Writing: the best way to learn it is to do it. And there are so many forms this takes. The students will write on assigned material (quite vast, examples from literature, sequences from plays, current affairs, ancient affairs, varied confessions, advice columns), work out a tandem dialogue with often hilarious consequences, document a real or imagined technical project, practice simply describing the things they see, attempt a poem or a song or a slam or a rap...and all of this in the comforting blaze of what English does so brilliantly: teach you how to express yourself as simply, clearly and directly as possible, and with the fewest adverbs...

We will read and correct each other's work, make impassioned and sometimes milder pleas, bask in the wealth of the written possibilities of the English language.

There will be writing done in the realm of cover letters, resumes and web presence in the form of a carefully tended LinkedIn page, not too much silliness on Facebook, a hypertext version of the resume meaning that the document refers to places elsewhere where the reader can click and is thus expandable at will.

Another writing exercise example will be to prepare a Ted Talk in which one of your fellow students is the subject of the talk, an idea from David Reckford.

And a cover letter that is also filled with hyperlinks....

Autonomy: Our autonomy project will be based on Raymond Queneau's <http://x42.com/active/queneau.html?p=47057641166561&l=en&n=New+Poem> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NhFoSFNQMQ> to be done in English, collaboratively, online, get the virtual equivalent of the paper to flip lines and equal the richness of Queneau's original intention... Each student 'configures' a poem and reads it during a performance day.

Evaluation: The students will have a fixed number of assignments, depending on the number of courses. Your grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your written work.