

Mediation – How to mediate a text: working with different sources, text types and topics

by Barbara Pelikan



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Sowohl im Unterricht als auch im Alltag werden Lernende mit verschiedensten Informationsquellen konfrontiert. In dieser Einheit lernen die Schülerinnen und Schüler anhand der Themen „American Dream“, „immigration“, „climate change“ und „Brexit“ mit den diversen Quellenformaten umzugehen und diese von einer Sprache in die andere zu übermitteln. Dabei schulen die Lernenden nicht nur ihre Mediationskompetenz, sondern erweitern auch ihre Sprach- und Medienkompetenz. Unter anderem mithilfe von Wortschatzübungen und Text- und Cartoonanalysen werden sie schrittweise an das Thema „Mediation“ herangeführt.

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Competences and skills:

Students enhance their **mediation skills** by transferring information from German or English texts into the other language. They learn to simplify complex contents and structures in order to convey the message of a text to different audiences. Students also practise their **listening** and **reading competences** as well as their **writing skills**.

4. Take a look at the poster and the translation below. Is it a good translation?



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5. Why is it difficult to translate the poster (4.) and the following newspaper article?

Bayern macht das Maibaum-Stehlen leichter

Bayern macht das Maibaum-Stehlen leichter. Die bisher sehr strengen Regeln für den Transport werden sofort gelockert [...] In einer Woche werden in Bayern hunderte Maibäume aufgestellt, das ist gelebtes Brauchtum – aber vermutlich auch hundertfacher Gesetzesbruch. [...]

Von Christina Deutschländer. <https://www.merkur.de/bayern/bayern-macht-maibaum-stehlen-leichter-strenge-regeln-gelockert-6341134.html> [in Auszügen]

6. Based on the examples above create a list on how to do a proper mediation.

Topic 2: The American Dream

M3 John Gast: *American Progress*

In the painting *American Progress* (1872) by John Gast you can see the westward movement in America in the 18th and 19th century. The painting is also often said to be putting the main ideas of the American Dream on canvas.



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© John Gast. Wikipedia.

Working with the painting

Create a mind map to describe the painting. Then use your mind map to express the ideas behind Gast's painting in four or five sentences.

Topic 3: Immigration

M6 *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus

The poem by Emma Lazarus is a sonnet, a special kind of poem with 14 lines written in iambic pentameter and with a specific rhyme scheme and a turn. It was written to collect money desperately needed to build the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. In 1903, the poem was cast on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the pedestal of the statue.

Emma Lazarus: *The New Colossus*

Not like the brazen¹ giant of Greek fame²
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 5 Mother of Exiles. From her beacon³-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 „Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!“ cries she
 With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled⁴ masses yearning to breathe free,
 10 The wretched refuse⁵ of your teeming⁶ shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed⁷ to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Annotations

1 brazen: made of brass; syn.: obvious/bold – **2 Greek fame:** The Colossus of Rhodes was a statue of the Greek god Helios erected on Rhodes to celebrate the Greek's victory over Cyprus. It was a symbol of victory and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. – **3 beacon:** a light on the top of a hill or in a tower that acts as signal or warning; a lighthouse; a source of light or inspiration – **4 huddled:** to gather closely together, usually because of cold or fear – **5 wretched refuse:** pitiful rubbish/garbage – **6 teeming:** full of people, animals etc. that are moving around e.g. the teeming streets of the city – **7 tossed:** thrown

M8 What (former) presidents said

"Remember, remember always, that all of us are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."

– **Franklin D. Roosevelt**
(President 1933–1945)

"The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources – because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and peoples."

– **Lyndon B. Johnson** (President 1963–1969) at the Statue of Liberty, 10/03/1965

"We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."

– **Jimmy Carter** (President 1977–1981)

"Sadly, the overwhelming amount of violent crime in our major cities is committed by blacks and hispanics – a tough subject that must be discussed."

– **Donald J. Trump** (President 2016 – today; posted on Twitter on 5 June, 2013)

"They are not our friends, believe me," he said, before disparaging Mexican immigrants: "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." – **Donald J. Trump** (President 2016 – today)

Roosevelt quotation taken from: <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/daybyday/event/april-1938-5/>

Johnson quotation taken from: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/remarks-on-signing-the-immigration-act-of-1965>

Carter quotation taken from: <https://www.newsweek.com/jimmy-carter-95th-birthday-happy-birthday-39th-president-greatest-quotes-over-years-1461817>

Trump quotations taken from: <https://time.com/4473972/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-insult/>

M9 A new version of Lady Liberty



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“Well, it all depends. Where are these huddled masses coming from?”

© CartoonStock

Topic 5: British politics – Brexit – bleiben oder gehen?

M15 Klausur – mediation

I. Listening comprehension [25 BE]



Take three minutes to read through the tasks. Then listen to the clip once and subsequently fill in the answers. Listen to the clip for a second time. Afterwards you can still fill in answers or continue with the mediation task. Remember that you only have 70 minutes for both tasks.

Source: The U.K. And The U.S. Could Both Be Led By Blunt-Spoken Populists; <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/22/744023637/the-u-k-and-the-u-s-could-both-be-led-by-blunt-spoken-populists>; July 22, 2019.



1. Tick the correct box.

(/5)

	True	Wrong	Not in the text
Turkey will join the EU soon.			
Johnson said the British government wanted Turkey to join the EU soon.			
Trump speaks fondly of the old days.			
Trump faces the next election in 2021.			
Politicians failed to address the human costs of globalisation.			

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