

### Formative Assessment

This formative assessment task was a piece that I did with my year 10 French class at Seymour College. In the class there were 10 students all with varying abilities. Generally, the school context is a supportive, well resourced one. Small class sizes mean that the girls get a lot of one on one support.

The task 'choisissez un cadeau' (choose a gift) was part of our unit on festivals. We decided that we would throw a Birthday party for a girl in our class and design class activities around this event. The first task was to choose a gift as a class. We did this using the discussion board on SOCS (this is Seymour's learning platform, much like Edmodo). This was so that students could practice their vocabulary, and use persuasive language. The aim was that they would have to convince one another that their gift idea was better than everyone else's.

Students were provided with extensive written feedback, personalized to each student. Then we went over the most common mistakes as a class. I found that this task was extremely useful as a diagnostic tool. I was able to see which students needed extra support and in which areas. For example, a common mistake was agreement of adjectives and the correct conjugation of verbs. I would gladly do this task again with my students, however, it is extremely difficult to assess as it is posted on a discussion board, there is no real structure as students post things as they think of them and others respond accordingly. Although, it was difficult to mark I still believe that it was a useful and successful task to have done with my year 10s.

Here is a copy of the task outline as it was provided to students:

### Choisissez un Cadeau

C'est l'anniversaire de Josie ! Nous devons acheter un cadeau fantastique ! Nous allons choisir et organiser un cadeau sur SOCS. Il y a une liste de choses à faire au-dessous.

- Come up with an idea for Josie's birthday present and share it with the group.**
- Include some details about your gift.**
- Express your opinion about some of the other gift suggestions.**  
(Give both positive and negative opinions)
- Try to convince your classmates to choose your gift suggestion.**  
(Use the conditional form of devoir and pouvoir – 'should' and 'could')
- Ask questions about other peoples' gift suggestions.**  
(How much is it? What colour? Where can we buy it?)
- Choose the present.**
- React to the choice of the present.**
- Disagree with one another about the present.**
- Decide who will purchase the gift and how.**  
Will someone bring a cake? Or maybe organise a card?
- Check your grammar.**  
Are your verbs conjugated correctly?  
Do adjectives agree with their subject?  
Are adjectives in the correct place?