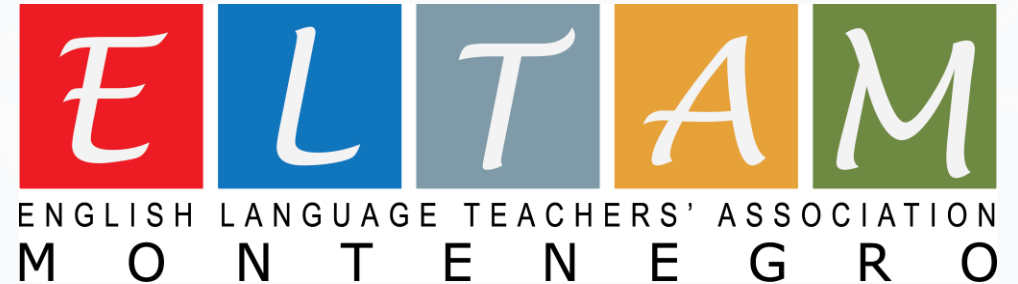


# My Experience With Running Extracurriculars In Montenegro: A Tale Of Two Clubs

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## Who Am I?

- Swedish-American
- Studied History and International Relations
- Serving now as a Peace Corps Volunteer at Mrkojevići Elementary school in Pečurice

# Personal Experience with Extra Curriculars

- High School - Football, Baseball, Various Volunteer Work, T-Shirt Design, Yearbook
- University Sports - Essex Rowing Club, Health and Safety Exec
- University Events- Linkoping Erasmus Events Coordinator, Language Café Co-Host
- Now running Debate Club at “Gimnazija “Niko Rolović” & “JU Srednja ekonomsko-ugostiteljska škola” Bar
- Creative Writing at “Osnovna Škola Mrkojevići”





Your Experience?

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# What are the Benefits?

1. Give youths more in life to look forward to

- Idle minds are the devil's playground

2. Provide practical interpersonal skills

- Teamwork
- Social Skills
- Physical exercise
- Leadership
- Commitment
- Confidence

3. Something students can have some control over



# Why Debate and Creative Writing?

- Little to no initial cost in terms of equipment
- I had some level of familiarity through studies and school
- Availability of space
- Something I thought students may enjoy





## How I Started

- First was to figure out how I intended to do these clubs, their structure
- Finding someone to work with
- Figuring out when to host these activities
- Advertising



# Structure

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## **Debate Club**

- Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, 1 time a week every Tuesday
- English classroom
- Advertised by counterpart
- Structure would be a mix of lecture and practical
- Partnered with Marta Nikolic

## **Creative Writing**

- 6<sup>th</sup> period Friday
- English classroom
- Advertised by myself and counterparts, but no partner
- Structured like a class



# Activities of Note

## Debate

- Lecture of Peace Theories
- “Interest Groups” Debate
- Feminism

## Creative Writing

- Story Structures via short film
- Outlining their own story
- Story boarding

# Hits and Misses

## DEBATE

### Hits

- Good regular turnout, mix of Gymnasium and Vocational students!
- A mix of me lecturing and them practicing debate
- Able to talk about various subjects

### Misses

- Struggles with roleplay
- Some students dominate discussion and unintentionally intimidate others

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Hits

- Those that did show up enjoyed it
- Teaching the basics of story writing and themes and ideas

### Misses

- Low turnout, 2 usually, 3 if I was lucky
- Time of day

# What Went Right.....And Wrong?

## Right

- Having a partner
- Event type and name, Debate club sounds more tantalizing
- Time of day
- Quick to spot what worked and what fell flat
- Giving students agency

## Wrong

- Poor coordination with school administration
- Scale of roleplays
- Poor choice of day

# My Ambitions

## Debate

- School Competition
- International Competition
- Establishment of Club Leadership
- Potential fundraising for the school

## Creative Writing

- Revamp and incorporate it into English classes
- Find a partner
- Better timing
- Better advertisement
- Better coordination with the school

# Key Takeaways



Think of what you may be able to offer



Identify what students desire



Work out ideal times



Coordinate with local administration



Find a potential partner!



Don't be afraid to have something fail

The background features several overlapping silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing right. Each head contains a large, dark question mark. The silhouettes are rendered in a dark grey color against a teal background. In the center, a lightbulb icon is visible, with lines radiating from it to indicate it is glowing. The text "What Do You Think?" is overlaid in the center in a white, outlined font.

What Do You Think?

Thank you!  
Hvala Vam!

