

Summary of Goals and Expected Outcomes of Program in Turkey

The mission of Learning Enterprises (LE) is to expand people's horizons through conversation-based English language classes taught by American and international volunteers. I speak from personal experience when I say that learning a language opens up an entirely new world. Languages help people to understand others better since language learning also involves exposure to new cultures and worldviews. Languages allow us to communicate with one another for peace and change. I hope to offer my students a new worldview so that they can make a difference in whatever field they so choose. My lessons are fitted to the needs of my students so that I am not only able to utilize their time wisely, but so that my students are able to stay motivated throughout their time with me. Most importantly, I want my students to leave my classroom feeling confident in their ability to successfully, efficiently and fluidly articulate their thoughts and opinions with others in the target language.

In many of the countries in which LE programs are present, the predominate method of learning a new language is still rote memorization. I will be using the communicative approach in my classroom so that I can best help students reach my goals for them and their goals for themselves. The communicative approach allows for students to make mistakes, recognize their mistakes and learn from them without feelings of extreme discouragement and failure. The usual grammar-approach often leaves students very knowledgeable about the construction of a language and even knowledgeable about a variety of topics, however, these skills and topics were deemed important by someone else. Conversely, the communicative approach utilizes authentic materials and takes students'

goals into account in order to teach relevant skills and themes. Grammar-based approaches can and have been successful in many instances; however, I would like to offer an approach that is even more successful with more students.

Moreover, I do not want my students to be concerned with passing tests, but rather I want them to be concerned with overall improvement. Personally, I think that the sole purpose of a test is to help a teacher know whether or not they have sufficiently covered the material. Of course it also takes effort on the students' part to master the lessons, but if there is a problem across the board that has not been covered well, then a test will reveal such. Other than that, tests limit students to either unnecessary material or discourage them because they have not mastered a particular grammar point. However, I will also take the needs of my students into account, so that I can aid my students in passing something such as the TOEFL if and when that is their goal for my course.

My students will feel more of a sense of ownership in their language learning paths because I will integrate their own goals in such a way that they want to be in the classroom every day since it will personally help them. Together my students and I will work to create reachable goals for their language learning experiences at the beginning of my course in a one-on-one meeting. We will meet regularly to assess where they are on these paths and determine what they need to do to reach their goals by the end of their time with me. I will strive to create a classroom in which my students find me easy to approach and in which they are comfortable to participate even if they may not know exactly the right thing to say or do. I will expect my students to follow rules that we create together at the beginning of the program. I will also expect them to strive toward their own goals. I will be fair with my

students and never cease to continue challenging them. Finally, I intend to regularly evaluate and reevaluate my teaching techniques by reading relevant language teaching articles and doing my best to stay up-to-date within my field.

At LE, young people have the chance to take on significant responsibilities and have a positive impact on the lives of people around the world. Few organizations would entrust a 21 year-old college student with the responsibility of administering the operations of an international non-profit, but LE does so with great results. I am excited to have the chance to teach and lead a class in Turkey. This opportunity will also allow me to implement techniques from linguistic theories that I have rigorously studied here at Georgetown. The experience will not only be new and challenging, but rewarding too. I look forward to helping my students expand their potential through the English language while growing in my own language teaching abilities.