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DIY GRAMMAR

For “Do It Yourself Grammar,” each student presents a grammar lesson to the class. The lesson must include the grammar rule written as a handout for each student, correct and incorrect examples of the grammar rule in use (preferably a media example) and an activity for the class.

Students pick their grammar topics at random. I write two dozen different grammar issues on slips of paper and each person “fishes” one out of a box. These topics might include pronoun-antecedent agreement or transitive-intransitive verb forms or subjunctive-indicative mood. Or, topics might be on punctuation marks or on problems with usage such as affect-effect, lay-lie, who-whom.

Students prepare the lesson for presentation to the class. They are to explain the rule and why it’s important, how it’s misused and give examples. They can use any references except those we use in class -- *When Words Collide* and the AP Stylebook. They must cite reference(s) on the handout. The presentation can be a quick lecture, a PowerPoint, a slideshow, video, animation, etc. Be creative.

Once the lesson is presented, students must involve the class in an activity to help them practice and reinforce the grammar lesson. This can be as simple as a worksheet or as complicated as a contest. Again, be creative and have fun. Some examples of activities from recent classes include: “Mad Libs” games made up using only certain parts of speech such as adjectives or pronouns, word searches, students wearing “label” words or punctuation marks moved around in “live sentences,” poster contests, deadline competitions and many more. Most students bring prizes for winners if the activity involves competition.

The DIY Grammar Assignment is graded this way:

■ Lesson/rule	10
■ Examples	5
■ <u>Activity</u>	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	25 points