

Title Screen

My Dog Ate My Homework!!!

Formulate. Translate. Debate

First Shot

Jackson: “Oh no! Your dog ate your homework and you only have 7 minutes before class starts. Piece the story together as quickly as you can, before the teacher grades it.”

Second Shot

Show the scrambled up pieces of “homework” and dismayed student

Third Shot

Jackson: “My Dog Ate My Homework!!!” combines the creativity and craziness of Madlibs with the voting and categorization of Apples to Apples.

Sofia:

This is a timed language acquisition game that can be used for intermediate L2 learning. The best part is that it can be used with any language you’re learning whether that be Italian, Chinese, or even learning English as a second language.

Jackson: It tests the ability to translate sentences grammatically and conjugate verbs correctly. It is adaptable to different vocabulary and thematic units as well as difficulty levels. In the prototype we have three units of vocabulary: getting ready, cooking, and traveling.

Sofia: You will need the four 4 color coded sets of vocabulary words, [cut to shot of hands showing the different colored cards] where Red represents subjects, Yellow represents verbs, Blue represents objects, and purple represents descriptive words like adjectives and adverbs. The green cards represent the category that players will vote on - but more on that shortly.

Jackson: [cut away to the scorecards] You will also need scorecards which are available as easily downloadable PDFs if you run out of the ones that are provided. [show Jackson holding up a timing device and writing utensil] You will also need to provide your own timing device whether that be a phone, computer, or hourglass, a writing utensil like a pen or pencil to tabulate the team’s scores, and paper to write the translated sentences onto.

Sofia: The object of the game is to score the most points by formulating and translating the best sentences according to the category card in use.

Jackson: To set up, all you need to do is divide students into teams according to the provided rule sheet and place the 4 decks of cards within easy reach of all players. Then just pull a green category card which can categories like this, this, and this [pulls actual examples from deck]

Sofia: In the formulate stage, each team pulls four cards in total from each of the primary color decks. So if there are 4 players on the team, there will be 12 cards pulled. Leave the cards face down until instructed. When the round begins the 7 minute timer will start, and you may flip over your cards and use them to formulate your story according to the green category card.

Jackson: Think of it like the magnetic poetry you used to do on the fridge as a kid. What's important to note is that players do not have to use every red color card they draw, but they must use every blue and yellow. Ideally, you will use all of the primary color cards because a boring story might not get many votes.

Sofia: Players are allowed to insert their own words such as prepositions, conjunctions, demonstrative and possessive adjectives and pronouns and alter the words from the cards in any way they see fit.

Jackson: But remember, if you add a verb, you've gone too far

Sofia: Can you give us an example of a sentence?

Jackson: For example, if I draw these three cards -- "She," "to cook," and "egg(s)." I would have to conjugate the verb "to cook" and either decide whether "She cooks an egg" or "She cooks eggs."

Sofia: Jackson, now what do the purple cards do?

Jackson: Great question Sofia! Remember that purple cards are adjectives and adverbs. Players are allowed to choose how many cards from this deck that they pull. They can also strategize to use more purple deck cards for more points, but there is the risk of making more mistakes when translating.

Sofia: So if I pull "hot," "healthy," and "easily," the sentence becomes - "She cooks the hot, healthy eggs easily.

Jackson: Yeah Sofia, that's right! So the more purple cards you use the more points you have the opportunity to score, but be careful an unused purple card will cause your team to lose a point.

Sofia: Also, if you run out of purple cards, you have lost the opportunity to gain extra points from them

Jackson: That's sad

Sofia: Onto the next stage -Translate. As a team, you will now use the writing utensil and paper to translate the sentences into the L2. For the sake of our example, we're going to use Spanish.

Jackson: The team should adjust the given words to produce concordance of gender and number, so using your sentence Sofia, you will need to make sure that saludable - healthy and caliente - hot are concordant with the plurality of the eggs. [Have the sentence written at the bottom of the screen] For example: Ella cocina los huevos calientes y saludables fácilmente.

Sofia: What happens if I don't know a word?

Jackson: You can ask the teacher to tell you what the word is... at the price of one point

Sofia: The first team to finish gets an extra point. All teams must stop when the 7 minute timer goes off.

Sofia: In the Debate stage, each team will take turns reading their story in the L2. After reading, comes corrections so that all teams have grammatically correct stories. Players then vote individually on the best story according to the chosen green category card.

Jackson: But Sofia, corrections are boring.

Sofia: Sometimes they can be, but in our game, they allow you to earn more points. Teams are allowed to earn points by correcting incorrect conjugations or translations. They also provide the chance for players to receive immediate feedback.

Jackson: [Jackson shows cards as he says them] If I draw, "Pet" "To have" "vacation" "reluctantly" and [Sentences appear on the bottom of the screen] formulate the sentence to "The pet has a vacation reluctantly" and translate it to "El mascota tienen vacacion de mala gana"

Sofia: If I were on an opposing team, I would want to be the first one to raise my hand after the team has finished reading their story so that I can point out you made a mistake with gender concordance by saying "El mascota" instead of "La mascota," you conjugated the verb in the third person plural instead of third person singular by writing "tienen" instead of "tiene," and that you have a number concordance issue by writing "vacacion" instead of "vacaciones." That would earn me an additional 3 points.

Jackson: Oh man!

Sofia: Here's how scoring works: Score cards have been provided to help guide each team in keeping track of their own points. [Show score cards]. 1 point will be awarded to each team for each vote that they received for their story during the debate round, 1 Point will be awarded for each correction a team makes on opposing teams sentences, and 1 point will be awarded for each purple card used. However, remember that purple cards are a double edged sword! 1 Point will be subtracted for each purple card drawn but not used. 1 point will be subtracted for getting the teacher's help on any unknown vocabulary. 1 point will be subtracted for each yellow or blue card that remains unused

Jackson: The team with the most points after 3 or more rounds wins. In the case of a tie, the team with the least amount of corrections to their own story wins. Ultimately, teacher decides how many rounds the students should play

Sofia: If you ever run out of scorecards, there are free, downloadable PDFs available on the wordpress site. In addition, there are free, downloadable, fillable PDFs for the vocabulary words when teachers want to change the unit. We have provided three units - getting ready, traveling, and cooking.

Jackson and Sofia: We hope you have fun playing our game!!!!