

of no interest to anyone. Thus, it is doubly important, in large classes, to provide opportunities in which students may share opinions, relate to their own future plans, explore their ideas on important issues, take stands on controversial topics, and apply their special knowledge to current concerns.

Almost any reading text, listening passage, and speaking activity can be adapted in such a way that it allows personalization. Below are some suggestions:

- After reading about a controversial topic, students can write letters to the editor.
- Students can give mini-presentations about their hopes or dreams for the future.
- Students can investigate the professional requirements of their hoped-for profession.
- Students can create posters of a place they have visited or would like to visit.
- Students can talk about a person they admire.

Chapter two of this book offers such adaptations. See, for example, activities 2.5, 2.7, and 2.10.

### **Principle eight: choice and open-endedness**

You have, no doubt, noticed that many kinds of exercises provided in language textbooks call for very specific answers. There will, for example, be fill-the-slot exercises that ask for one specific word. These kinds of tasks are considered closed-ended exercises. Open-ended exercises, on the other hand, allow students many possibilities for choosing appropriate language items and gearing the exercise to their own level of competence. This is why they work so well in the large multilevel class. Since open-ended exercises are infinitely more success-oriented, they really work well in all classes. However, they are truly a boon in the large multilevel class as they put everyone to work with the new language.

Some ways of providing open-endedness are:

- Giving students beginnings of sentences and allowing them to finish these in an appropriate way.
- Giving students a set of questions and allowing them to answer a specific number of their choice.
- Brainstorming.
- Writing their own definitions of words.
- Matching answers in which several of the matches provide the 'right' answer.
- Questions that can be answered in many different ways.