Experts

Camp Nova 2024: A Transformative Experience in English Communication

Tue, 12/24/2024 - 14:53

Camp Nova 2024, an intensive three-day programme designed to elevate English proficiency among Matriculation Programme students, concluded successfully from 27th to 28th September 2024. Organised by the Centre for Modern Languages (CML), Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA) the camp was held at Pekan.

It brought together 40 students from Pahang Matriculation College, Gambang, and was facilitated by a dedicated team of 10 undergraduate and postgraduate students from UMPSA. Participants were accommodated at Kolej Mawaddah in UMPSA Pekan for the duration of the event.

The programme was structured with five primary objectives: (1) to enhance self-confidence in communication, (2) to promote the use of English in daily interactions, (3) to foster interest in learning the English language, (4) to improve MUET performance, and (5) to reinvigorate strategic collaborations with both public and private higher education institutions. The name 'Nova,' derived from the Latin word for 'new,' symbolises a fresh beginning, embodying the transformative impact the programme sought to impart.

Camp Nova 2024 provided an immersive learning environment that emphasised the importance of both practical communication skills and theoretical knowledge. The program supported the Memartabatkan Bahasa Melayu dan Memperkukuh Bahasa Inggeris (MBMMBI) policy, which aims to ensure the usage of Malay language as a medium of communication in all schools, and to ensure that each child can master both Malay and English languages well and fluently, and was delivered through a series of dynamic and engaging sessions. Trainers included prominent educators such as Dr. Umi Kalsom Masrom, Amy Zulaikha Mohd Ali, Noraisah Nurul Fatwa Mohd Razali, Mohd Shafeirul Zaman Abd Majid, and Khairul Amri Abdul Aziz, each contributing their expertise in language and communication.



Day 1 of the programme featured five key sessions. It started with camp briefing and ice-breaker activities, conducted by Mohd Shafeirul Zaman, which set an engaging tone for the camp. Next, ‘Effective Communication’, delivered by Noraisah Nurul Fatwa, enhanced participants’ communication skills. In ‘Vocabulary for Advanced Speech (AI in Speaking)’, Noraisah Nurul Fatwa introduced participants to AI tools designed to improve their vocabulary. ‘Interactive Language Games’, facilitated by Khairul Amri, offered a hands-on, Explorace-style challenge that encouraged team collaboration. Finally, ‘Presentation Skills’ led by. Mohd Shafeirul Zaman, equipped participants with essential presentation skills.

Day 2 saw the continuation of the enriching sessions, with ‘Public Speaking’ and ‘The Power of Persuasion’, led by Dr. Umi Kalsom. In the afternoon, ‘Reflection and Sharing Session’, facilitated by Amy Zulaikha, provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on their learning experiences. The day concluded with group feedback presentations, followed by a Closing Ceremony that recognised outstanding performances.



The winners of Camp Nova 2024 were announced during the Closing Ceremony, recognising excellence in both group and individual achievements. The Best Group for Human Bingo was awarded to 4 Fingers, facilitated by Sulaiman Khan. The Best Group for Presentation went to Shawarma, led by Muhammad Afiq Hamzah. The Best Group for Explorace was awarded to Twinkle Star, under the facilitation of Samra Urooj Khan. In individual categories, the Best Camper Award was presented to Muhammad Amierul Mustaqim Ramli, Nur Nazifa Hashlaila Abdul Halim, and Wan Adied Ikhwan Wan Sobri, in recognition of their exceptional engagement and performance. The Best Facilitator Award, voted by the participants, was given to Ehtesham Ali for his outstanding support and dedication throughout the event.

“Camp Nova 2024 has been an incredibly transformative experience. I have gained both practical communication skills and the confidence to speak English more effectively. Winning the Best Camper Award is an honour and further motivates me to continue refining my language skills.” Said Muhammad Amierul Mustaqim Ramli, Best Camper Award Winner. Qistina Yasmin Syahril, a facilitator, remarked, “It has been a rewarding experience to contribute to Camp Nova 2024. The enthusiasm and progress demonstrated by the participants throughout the camp were inspiring. It is gratifying to witness their growth in confidence and communication skills, which reflects the programme's success.”



Camp Nova 2024 successfully achieved its goal of enhancing English communication skills among participants. Through a combination of interactive sessions, practical language use, and collaborative learning, participants left the camp with heightened confidence and improved proficiency in English. The event also highlighted the value of fostering a supportive learning environment, which will continue to benefit all those involved in their future academic and professional pursuits. Looking ahead to next year, the Centre for Modern Languages hopes to be allowed to host Camp Nova again, continuing to provide students with the tools and support necessary to master English communication and contribute to their academic success.



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