

Fourth additional task: A passive investigation into Roger Casement's humanitarian work

Learning aims: to exercise the student's knowledge of the passive construction and usage thereof, through a task designed for them to experience how passive is used in 'real' texts. Additionally, the task should encourage the students to question and better understand the usage of passive.

Task description: the handout features the introduction to the text *Sir Roger Casement and the International Humanitarian Movement* by Andrew Porter, which covers an overview of Casement's time as a British consul in the Congo and Amazon. The students must understand why the passive is used, what agent is missing (or used with a by-phrase) and then rewrite the sentences in the active form. The students can work individually then pair-check or work in pairs throughout. The eleven sentences containing the examples of passive have been highlighted to prevent confusion and the construction has been emboldened. However, a version of the text without the emboldening is also available, if the teacher would like the student to locate the construction themselves. Additionally, if the teacher would like to shorten the task, then the passive examples could easily be split across the class.

Prerequisites: the students should be familiar with the passive usage in English before participating in the task or may need a refresher before completing it. The students must have completed the core task, so they are already informed concerning who Roger Casement was and what the text refers to. The other two additional tasks do not need to be completed before this one, the task order is interchangeable.

Required material: beyond the handouts and recording, just the ability to make some notes.

Main type of student activity/output: reading comprehension and language practice:
grammar

Key Skills: reading and speaking

Primary source: Porter, Andrew. "Roger Casement and the International Humanitarian Movement." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 29.2 (2001): 59–74.

Further reading: For an alternative perspective, this text provides a personal encounter of Casement's life in the Congo.

Meyers, Jeffrey. "Conrad and Roger Casement." *Conradiana* 5.3 (1973): 64–69.