

Teaching culture through project-based instruction

Presenters:

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Definition

Definition of Culture

“Culture is shared, learned behavior that is transmitted from one generation to another for the purpose of promoting individual and social survival, adaptation, growth and development”

Samovar & Porter (2001)



Culture as an Iceberg





Culture as an Iceberg





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Culture as an Iceberg





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Goal of Culture teaching

Cultural Knowledge: Knowledge of facts and information

Culture Awareness: Awareness of similarity and differences

Cultural Competence: developing communicative skills which allows the learner to engage in interaction beyond the contexts of their own culture and the target language culture (Marzak, 2010)



The importance of Cultural Competency

- *Our mission is to provide the highest quality culturally based foreign language education, training and evaluation to enhance the national security of the United States*
- Intercultural communication is a complex activity that combines several abilities and incorporates both cross-cultural expertise and language skills. <http://www.govtilr.org/Skills/Competence.htm>



The effect of motivation in learning a language

- The effect of motivation in the study of L2 has been proved by experts like Gardner and Lambert (1959, 1965, 1972)
- The study of culture increases learner's not only curiosity about and interest in target countries but also their motivation



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Benefit of culture teaching in language classes

- Studying culture gives students a reason to study the target language as well as rendering the study of L2 meaningful (Stainer, 1971)
- Integrating cultural elements into language teaching enhances the development of Intercultural Skill



Why project-based?

- Creates Motivation: studying culture renders the study of the target language meaningful (Stainer, 1971)
- Develops positive attitude: learners, not only acquire the knowledge of other cultures, but also increase their understanding of their own culture (Lado, 1964)
- Satisfies Curiosity
- Allows Extra Linguistic elements to be acquired



The benefit of project-based

- Exposure to literature activities allows the learner to identify , compare, and contrast different cultural aspects (Cultural Awareness) and consequently get closer to the Cultural Competency which is the intended goal of the project



Phases of project-based instruction *Teacher's role*

Inform students of the project requirement:

Time frame

Details of each phase

Final product (Specific format and components with consideration of students' Level and learning goals)

Assessment tool (Grading criteria)



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Phases of project-based instruction *Students' role*

- Preparation
- Topic selection
- Information collection
- The writing of a paper
- The creation of presentation slides
- Giving the presentation
- A critique of the presentation
- The assessment



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Questions