CULTURAL INTERVIEWS

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CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: SPANISH
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Project Description

Dr. Cristina Carrasco and Dr. Hilda Chacón from our Foreign Languages and Literatures department requested for the Emerson Language Lab to conduct cultural interviews in Spanish with international students.

The professors wanted us to interview students from Cono Sur in South America and from Central America to complement their textbook Metas which covers these regions.

The professors provided us with the interview questions.
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: SPANISH

○ Project Implementation
  - Nazareth students with advanced Spanish language skills conducted the interviews.
  - We recorded the interviews using a simple camera and a stand.
  - Dr. Chacón requested for the interviewees to be video-recorded from close range, so that students watching could see lip movements for better comprehension.
  - Interviewer and interviewee signed release forms allowing Nazareth College to use the interviews.
Cultural interviews: Spanish

- **Project Integration**
  - Professor Carrasco had students watch interviews and write a reflection based on it, describing ten things they learned. This was followed by a class discussion.
  - Alternatively, Professor Carrasco watched the interview with her students in class, followed by a class discussion.
  - Professor Chacón used the interview as a stimulus when covering the particular Spanish-speaking regions.
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH
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- Interviews are a tool for English language learning
  - Learning language through content
  - Authentic language
  - Communicative approach
  - Provides outstanding opportunities for speaking, listening and writing
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH

- Interviews are a tool for building a classroom community and intercultural awareness, and integrating international students into the larger college community
  - Involves other disciplines in being aware of the international students, and draws on the students' expertise
  - Provides international students with a way to help others move beyond stereotypes and deepen their understanding of other cultures
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH

- Provides international students with an opportunity to learn about other world cultures, and an awareness of their own prejudices and stereotypes of others
- Provides opportunities to build community and for shared experiences
- Highlights how small cultural differences can be huge impediments to communication
Cultural interviews: English

Project Description

- We asked international students from Professor Kroon’s English class to participate in cultural interviews.
- Students, assistants, and professors provided input for questions to use.
- We presented students with 10 general questions covering broad aspects of culture as well as 2-3 country-specific questions.
- Students substituted their own questions for those they did not like or did not want to answer.
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH

- Topics covered by 10 general questions:
  - Culture
  - Family
  - Education
  - Religion
  - Holidays
  - Politics
  - Living Standard
  - Fashion
  - “Exports”
  - Language

- Variety of topics for 2-3 country-specific questions
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH

Project Implementation

- Students signed up for interview time slots.
- Lab assistants conducted interviews.
- We recorded interviews using a simple camera and a stand.
- Interviewer and interviewee were recorded in variety of settings.
- Video files, interview questions, scanned release forms were organized in folders.
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS: ENGLISH

- **Project Integration**
  - Blackboard assignment

- **Before the Interview**
  - What do you know about the country?
  - What stereotype(s) do you have about the culture?

- **After the Interview**
  - What did you learn about the country that you didn’t know before?
  - What is the strongest part of this interview and what suggestions would you have for improvement?
CULTURAL INTERVIEWS

 Helpful Hints
  - Interviewer
    - Look for talented interviewers and/or train
  - Setting
    - Nice background, lighting
    - Avoid swivel chairs, camera mishaps, background noise
  - Check video files immediately
    - Avoid retakes
  - Organization
    - Small project - less organization
    - Project across languages – more detailed information required